

SUMMER EDITION



TEXAS COUNCIL



*Educating,
Conserving,
and Fly Fishing
the Waters of the
Great State of Texas*

The Texas Line & Leader

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is truly amazing how much has changed since our spring edition of the Texas Line & Leader. The ability of humanity to adapt to changing circumstances seems beyond description with mere words. Direct contact has been replaced with virtual contact tools, and this movement is likely to be at least partially permanent.

Your organization has evolved in many ways over these short few months of social distancing (which seems like an eternity). FFI will soon be announcing newly defined models for Charter and Affiliate clubs, as well as improved benefits for FFI members regardless of club participation. A regular series of Zoom based presentations with relevant, professional and engaging content for all members is being produced weekly. Planning for the first FFI Expo using the new regional approach is underway, and a Virtual Leadership Conference will be scheduled soon.

Some of our clubs are holding club events electronically including a virtual auction that is being produced by Fort Worth Fly Fishers the week of June 15. Dallas Fly Fishers held their first

live meeting after the shut down with overflow attendees joining via Zoom. This may be one of the first in-person club meetings since February in the entire country. Numerous other clubs are using innovative solutions to engage with their members. Outings have continued to a large extent.

I cannot help but marvel at the resilience of our organization, and fly fishers generally, in the face of the major challenge that has been presented by the global reaction to COVID-19.

And the fish are still biting!

Andy Payne
President, Texas Council FFI

TEXAS COUNCIL CONSERVATION NEWS

Texas Council members, and to anyone who loves streams and rivers in Texas, we are sharing news on unified concerns that is ongoing in the Fort Worth area.

The City of Fort Worth is considering a new water discharge plan that could change the life of Mary's Creek and the Trinity River.

For years, the community has worked very hard to improve and sustain great water conditions in the City of Fort Worth, preserving a wonderful recreation resource we have come to love and enjoy.

The proposed plan is to discharge treated wastewater into Mary's Creek, which then runs into the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The unified effort is very much against this plan, as it could greatly and forever change the ecosystem of the river. Moving forward with this plan, could greatly affect our amazing resource.

We believe, based on water quality modeling, that operation of the proposed facility using the proposed discharge criteria to Mary's Creek will result in an excessive concentration of nitrogen species from the effluent, which will cause proliferation of Cyanobacteria in the Clear Fork Trinity River Below Benbrook Lake, particularly during low flow conditions.

It appears that the only form of nitrogen that was considered in TCEQ's modeling was ammonia even though nitrate levels were elevated. TRWD has developed a river model of the Clear Fork Trinity River to analyze potential impacts from the proposed discharge. TRWD's analysis shows that the levels of Chlorophyll-a, the measurement for Cyanobacteria, will increase to concentrations higher than have ever been sampled by TRWD.

Levels are projected to reach approximately 80 ug/L. The World Health Organization identified a concentration of 50 ug/L as being a level that can cause health effects for both animals and humans.

After receiving word of this plan, many groups connected and decided action needs to be taken. Protests were filed from the many groups, and we are pleased to announce there will be a public hearing, to discuss the future of this plan, of Mary's Creek and the Trinity River, and the resource we so value here in Fort Worth.

There are many of us working on the future of the Trinity, and we want to recognize these individuals and the organizations they represent. Truly a coalition of great leaders, wanting to do great things.

Thank you for your support, and dedication to our river!!

David Hooper, President, Fort Worth Fly Fishers,

Emily Craig, Conservation Director, Fort Worth Fly Fishers,

Russell Husted, Communications Director, Texas Council, Fly Fishers International

Andy Payne, President, Texas Council Fly Fishers International

David Reichert, Conservation Director, Texas Council, Fly Fishers International

Teresa Patterson, Paddle Trail Manager, Trinity Coalition

David Price, President, Texas River Protection Association

Richard Grayson, Board Member, Texas Rivers Protection Association

J.D. Grainger, Tarrant Regional Water District

Woody Frossard, Tarrant Regional Water District

GREAT JOB TEAM

FWFF VIRTUAL MINI AUCTION

BREAKING NEWS

The Fort Worth Fly Fishers is conducting a "Virtual Mini Auction" starting Monday at noon, June 29 and final bid accepted at 8 PM Sunday, July 5. Please check out the fun on:

<https://fwff.betterworld.org/auctions/fwff-virtual-auction-2>

Questions: Kevin or Rick at fundraising@fortworthflyfishers.org

Thanks
Rick Hanes

OKTOBERFISCH IS A PREMIER TEXAS HILL COUNTRY FISHING EVENT

Enjoy professional fly casting and fly tying lessons at Oktoberfisch

In 2020 Oktoberfisch will be held this October 16-18, at the new 140 acre Edgewater Springs Resort in Fredericksburg which is located in the heart of the Texas Wine Country. The resort and event headquarters offers over a mile of private fishing access to the Pedernales River.

Located just 3 miles away from the event waters is the City of Fredericksburg Texas. Fredericksburg has been described by Texas Monthly as the "Aspen of Texas". Named as one of the top 10 resort destinations in Texas, Fredericksburg offers: more than 100 restaurants with a wide range of cuisines. Shoppers will love the boutique shops and museum buffs will delight in the National Museum of the War in the Pacific and the Pioneer Museum. Lodging choices include tent sites & RV sites at the event. If you are staying in town there are motels, hundreds of unique Bed & Breakfast options, as well as numerous RV Parks.

Participants will enjoy fine event details such as access maps and shuttle service to fish local waters. Other amenities include access to the all of the classes, fishing on site, Saturday night cookout, RV hookups, campsites, and parking for those not staying onsite.

INSTAGRAM UPDATE

Last newsletter we talked about Instagram and gave a basic intro on how to get started using it. This week, I'd like to give an update about how the Texas Council is using Instagram for outreach and to grow awareness of our existence within the Texas fly fishing community.

We have made a few changes to the Texas Council 'Insta' account

in order to help us understand who our audience is and how they respond to our outreach attempts and when we post pictures. As I write this, we have 226 followers, which puts us in a good position going forward because people can see that we have started to gain momentum and are worth paying attention to. This, plus our reputation as a community-first organization, will help us gain additional followers in the future.

As we touched on last time, Instagram is tremendously popular, especially in the 15-50-year-old target audience.

So far, we have learned that:

- Almost 70% of our followers are younger than 55, and just under half are less than 45.
- 85% of our followers are male, 15% female.
- The majority of our followers are located in the Austin and Fort Worth Metros, followed distantly by Dallas and San Antonio.

Our goals going forward are:

- Continue posting high quality content that appeals to our constituency
- Continue sharing links and posts in our Story to help support Texan fly fishers
- Grow our followers to 500
- Link up with fly clubs around the state who want to promote their events and clubs
- Have the #texascouncilffi hashtag gain traction and get used by followers

I am satisfied with our growth - in the last month, we have gained about 25 followers. This is encouraging and shows that we are posting the kind of content that our target audience likes to see. This also shows in our follower engagement; in other words, the number of 'likes' that our photos get. When we post a particularly popular picture, we can get as much as 20% of our total followers liking that picture. A general rule of thumb is to expect around 10% of your users to like a quality photo that you post, so 20% engagement is really exciting to see.

Interested in trying out Instagram for the first time? Refer to our last newsletter (Spring 2020) for a brief overview of how to get started. Still having issues? Youtube has plenty of walkthroughs to help solve issues. If you're already on Instagram and would like to help us provide great content for our audience, please follow us - @Texascouncilffi - and use the hashtag #texascouncilffi on high quality fish and fishing pictures that display good fish handling techniques and camaraderie on the water.

Austin Orr

FISHING THROUGH A PANDEMIC



Recently while fishing a local river far from any access point I heard a series of splashes just downstream. I had seen some bass working the weedline before and took a look. I turned to see a dog paddling full speed ahead to the thrown object and its owner clearly oblivious to what had just happened to my day. Fish activity instantly stopped and I was asked "How's the fishing?" I managed a semi-polite response and moved on down river away from the owner and dog. I was frustrated but decided to focus on the positive aspect of my trip, at least I was on the water.

I have noticed my local rivers getting busier with folks looking for an outlet during the pandemic. I am excited to see the growth in our sport and the new demographics trying it out. I do my best to get away from the heavily fished water as I don't enjoy situations described above. Besides my one run in with the four legged swimmer my pandemic fishing experience has been phenomenal.

Fishing the hill country has been a great way for me to stay sane with the daily stresses of job, family, finances, groceries, and toilet



paper shortages. Since the pandemic started, I have been able to spend more time on the water as work travel came to a halt. I have been lucky to fish with many friends, new and old, while social distancing. I have been showing new fly fishers and new to the area fly fishers some local access points and what to look for while fishing these areas. As social creatures, we have the need to interact with others on a regular basis. Fishing together helps meet those social needs. The only real differences are the lack of a handshake greeting and goodbye as well as the high five after a good fish. Speaking of being lucky, I have really been getting into some good fish as of late. I even managed to finish 3rd in a local catch and release tournament, open to all angling types, while using only a fly rod.

Lastly, I consider myself lucky to belong to a great fly fishing club with many engaged members. We recently did an outing on the Llano River that involved us meeting up early in the morning and all taking



individual cars to our fishing location. We had about 20 members and guests show up to fish. While fishing, if you fail to maintain the recommended six feet of separation, you may go home with some new jewelry in your ear. Needless to say, we did a good job maintaining a safe distance. Many of us had

good days catching several smaller fish. As we all know, catching fish is not the point of fishing. For me, fishing is about being in nature, enjoying the river, and an ice cold beer to end the day while telling fish stories with my friends. I would encourage you to look past the negative implications of this pandemic and embrace the positives, the water, hopefully a few fish, maybe a friend, and definitely a ice cold beverage to end the day.

James Reese
President - San Gabriel Fly Fishers

NEWS FROM FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

FFI Women Connect

Under the leadership of Patty Lueken, the FFI Women Connect program is very active and growing rapidly.

WOMEN CONNECT REPORT June, 2020

Women Connect continues to move forward, despite the Covid 19 issues. See below for current items we are working on.

1. On Wednesday, June 17, 2020, the FFI Webinar will feature Women Connect. The presentation will discuss who we are, why it is important to have Women Connect and some of our future goals and plans. Please tune in at 7:00 pm Central.
2. Women Connect currently has 4 in-person programs in the planning stages:
 - A. Nov 11 - 14, 2020 - Workshop utilizing the Casting Challenges and the Bronze Award for fly tying.
 - B. March 28 - April 3, 2021 - Second Annual Fly Tying Workshop to work on the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.
 - C. Sept 12 - 18, 2021 - A week long trip for women to Minnesota Driftless area. Lots of fishing will be included. We will also offer the Casting Challenges, some tying activities and educational events about the Driftless area.
 - D. Sept 19 - 26, 2022 - A week fishing for Peacock Bass in the Amazon aboard a boat exclusively for Women Connect members.
3. Women Connect started monthly Webinars with the presenters discussing different fishing venues and other fish related topics. Ann Miller will be presenting an excellent program on entomology in the near future.
4. The weekly tying series continues, with 30 plus tiers engaged with the lead tier in most weeks. This week is Kathy Crofts, a guide and fly shop manager from Cody, Wyoming. Starting next week (June 23, 2020) Gretchen and Al Beatty will begin a five week series.
5. Women Connect Facebook saw a 24 percent increase in membership this past month. We are continuing a push to raise awareness of Women Connect through this and other media.
6. Women Connect began using Instagram. (Instagram@ffiwomenconnect)
7. The Ambassador program is moving forward. Because FFI uses the name Ambassador, we have changed the name of the individuals in this program to Liaisons and Advocates, depending on the type of outreach.
8. Committee chairs are being appointed, with the Women Connect Board now divided into Executive Board members

and Full Board members in anticipation of future growth.

9. In general Women Connect is working to more fully integrate with FFI and build its management structure as our membership continues to increase.
10. Zappy Hour (a social event on Zoom) is continuing twice a month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patty Lueken, Chair Women Connect

Leadership Development Workshop

The 2020 Leadership Development Workshop will be held in the September-October time frame, and will be presented in a Zoom webinar format. Since the FFI Expo has been cancelled for this year, many of the special activities normally held during the Expo will be presented as individual webinars in the Fall. The FFI Annual Board of Directors meeting will be held as a Zoom meeting on July 20, 2020, and other programs like the Leadership Development Workshop, and the Awards Presentations will be held in the Fall.

The 2020 Leadership Development Workshop will include individual presentations from FFI Council and Club leaders on topics of particular interest to Councils and Clubs. For example presentation topics will include Membership development and retention, Council-Club communication and relations, Marketing, Fund Raising, Volunteer programs, etc.

FFI Learning Center

The FFI Learning Center continues to be a source for educational and instructional materials on a wide scale. Currently, we are seeing access to the Learning Center occurring in 6 countries, and all the educational and instructional content in the Learning Center is downloadable to you, free of charge. Several new materials have completed the editorial and quality assurance process and will be uploaded to the Learning Center. Those new materials include:

- The Beginning Fly Tying Manual
- Bronze Fly Tying Award Video
- Knots and Rigging Manual
- Fly Fishing Safety Manual (update)
- Fly Fishing Etiquette Manual (update)

In development:

- Facilitator Manuals for the slide presentations
- Fly Fishing Skills II slide presentation
- Saltwater Fly Fishing Manual
- Specific areas of interest, such as Entomology and much more.

NEWS FROM FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

The Casting Instruction section of the Learning Center is already extraordinary, but Molly Semenik and Bruce Richards are writing new additional documents to support the casting videos, plus the documents for 8 brand new casting videos.

Club Model Review

FFI Board Chairman, Tom Logan has led a small task force to study the current FFI Club model. This comprehensive study has reviewed every aspect of the Club model configurations, benefits, operational services, etc. The final report, with 11 recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for review and approval on June 23. The recommendations pertain to:

- a comprehensive messaging strategy,
- FFI individual member benefits,
- clear definitions for FFI members, FFI community, member benefits and opportunities, club benefits and operational assistance
- Council and Club purposes and roles
- specific task assignments to FFI Board Committees, such as Membership, Marketing, Education, Finance,
- task to develop a comprehensive Membership recruitment program
- new fundraising strategies
- consideration to restrict some benefits to FFI members only,
- a cost analysis for provision of benefits to Charter vs Affiliate Clubs

Salt Water Flies Manual

A new Saltwater Flies Manual is near completion, and big thank you to Ron Mayfield, Texas Fly Fishers, for his involvement with the Fly Tying Group sub-committee developing this resource.

FFI Online Series

FFI President and CEO, Patrick Barry plans to complete the current On-line schedule, take a break during the summer months, then resume the series in the Fall. Patrick has terrific plans for the Fall edition of the FFI On-line series.

This note from Patrick:

Members and friends of Fly Fishers International,

I hope everyone has been enjoying our [FFI Online](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org) Series, a new initiative to bring the Fly Fishers International experience to our members, clubs, and councils. If you haven't taken the time to join us in the last few weeks, we have more exciting new topics you won't

want to miss. Older seminars can be viewed [here](#). We've been focusing on the FFI mission to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters through conservation, education, and community—and having a blast doing it.

Jeff Currier has already taken us on his global fish quest to Iceland, the Amazon, and Anaa Atoll in French Polynesia. In Dave Peterson's Conservation Conversations, we last explored the secret bonefish spawning grounds and will next focus on efforts to save the Boundary Waters.

FFI ONLINE HITS ITS STRIDE

Starting on May 26th, Molly Semenik and some of the best casters in the world will launch their 6-part series to teach you how to catch fish with better casting and preparation. Jerry Coviello continues with his tying series on June 9th to help you tame elk and deer hair.

Coming soon, Patty Lueken will talk FFI Women Connect, the fastest growing program in Fly Fishers International. And don't forget to check out some of the previous episodes that include a tour through the FFI Learning Center with Dutch Baughman, and the vision of where FFI is headed with me.

FFI plans to keep this online series going through June, take a break for some much-needed fly fishing, and then return next winter with a new lineup of exciting presenters and topics.

Wishing you all the best,



Patrick H. Berry
President and CEO

Join Now

Fly Fishers International is the only organization in the world dedicated to fly fishing. Your membership supports all of the FFI activities to include Women Connect, the Learning Center, and Conservation. At the present time, FFI is involved in 52 conservation actions world-wide.

www.flyfishersinternational.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION

CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

THE FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL **GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION** IS A COMMUNITY OF MEN AND WOMEN DEDICATED TO PROMOTING AND ENHANCING AN ANGLER'S FLY FISHING EXPERIENCE.

Fly fishing guides and outfitters provide valuable services to members of the fly fishing community around the world each year. Many Fly Fishers International (FFI) members are guides who provide fresh or salt water fishing experiences to their clients. However, many fly fishing guides are not members of the current Guides & Outfitters Association or FFI.

The expanded Guides & Outfitters Association is an effective way to establish a program that provides its members substantial benefits that include the best industry liability insurance and assist them in developing new clients.

It is the mission of FFI to support and protect fly fishing opportunities around the world for "all fish – all waters." It further is our intent to support members of the Guides & Outfitters Association as ambassadors who assist in the achievement of the FFI mission.

BENEFITS:

- » Insurance (United States only)
- » Travel and business programs
- » Access to FFI Learning Center materials
- » Promotion of services through FFI social media and publications

VISIT FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.



WHAT'S NEW WITH TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT?

- This coming license year, **Texas Outdoor Annuals** will not be printed and distributed with license purchase. (Funding for the printing did not come through from our sponsor due to COVID.) This is a good time to download the Texas OA app on your phone. It does not need internet to access when downloaded and updates with the new regulations as they change. You can also sync your fishing license to your app so you can show it and your drivers license if a Game Warden checks you.



<https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20200602a>

- Some **new fishing regulations** were established this year in Texas. Check the TPWD website or your Texas OA app to see what has changed. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/new-this-year-fishing>
- If you're **looking for new places to fish**, check out the Texas Lake Finder on the TPWD website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/>
- Common Salvina was discovered on Lake Fork. Please remember to clean, drain and dry your boats and fishing equipment. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20200529a>
- Select TPWD Instructor certification workshops are taking place online for new instructors. We are looking at some

hybrid online as well as in person workshops for fly fishing. Contact your TPWD representative if you are interested in becoming a TPWD certified instructor.

Keira Quam – keira.quam@tpwd.texas.gov

Adam Comer – adam.comer@tpwd.texas.gov

Greg Akins – greg.akers@tpwd.texas.gov

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE LEASE ACCESS FOR ANGLERS / KAYAKERS

Exciting news coming out from Texas Parks and Wildlife about more access to our Texas Rivers. Phase one of the kayak / fishing river access was a huge success and TPWD is building on that success with a second round of coordinated efforts to provide anglers with even more access. The Texas Council played a significant role in the first phase, by highlighting possible access areas, and names of land owners / locations of interest for TPWD to explore. With this information, TPWD went and did some great work in acquiring sites for us to enjoy throughout the state. Since acquiring these sites, myself and many, many others have thoroughly enjoyed this access, and look forward to the news of more to come.

Here is the official statement from TPWD.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is looking to expand public access to fishing and paddling on Texas rivers through leased access agreements with streamside landowners. For more information or to submit an application, please see the River Access Request for Applications on the [TPWD Grants Page](#). Landowners interested in partnering with TPWD in this effort can gain additional valuable insight into the program by checking out this [fact sheet](#) that answers some of the more frequently asked questions.

With this news, there is a need to promote the program, to highlight the process, and gain support throughout the state. Earlier this month, I was approached by TPWD, to see if I would be interested in doing just that. Filming a segment for the TPWD Show and a promotional video. Thinking it was going to be an easy let's film Russell fly fishing, I agreed, and off I went with a loaded down, beat up, dirty truck to Mason, Texas. Keira gave

TPWD- CONTD.

me a little more insight, into the process, and she was right on. Thanks for that!!! After meeting up and discussing the plan with Abe Moore, and John Botros, I realized that may not be the entire story. We spent one afternoon, and a follow up early morning shoot to finish the filming. It was hot, a lot of work, and a very fun, memorable experience. We used cameras, Go-Pro's, and drones to put together what we think will be an awesome reflection of the program, and what fly fishing on the Llano is like. It was all about the experience, angles, lighting, and telling the story. It was a great experience, and so much fun working with Abe and John.

Stay tuned for show time, and when the 2nd phase of the program rolls out.

Attached are a few of the shots, that will draw your interest into what is to come.

Russell Husted





Reel Recovery is a national non-profit organization that conducts free fly-fishing retreats for men recovering from all forms of cancer. Combining expert fly-fishing instruction with directed “courageous conversations”, the organization offers a unique experience for men coping with cancer, a time to share their stories; learn a new skill, form friendships and gain renewed hope as they confront the challenges of their recovery.

“This was the best time of my life! It’s by far the best thing out there for men with cancer.”

Retreat Participant

Retreats are conducted over a two-and-a-half day period at a fly-fishing facility/lodge with onsite or nearby fishing access.

All meals, lodging and fly-fishing equipment are provided at no cost to the participants. Retreats are led by professional facilitators and expert fly-fishing instructors. A maximum of 12-14 men are invited to participate, to ensure the quality of the instruction and to create a powerful small-group dynamic.



“I discovered that while fly-fishing, I was in another place. In this place there was no cancer, no pain and no fear.”

Retreat Participant

“This retreat was so much more than fishing; this was a life-changing experience.”

Retreat Participant

“Reel Recovery is a gift. Being here has given me the strength and courage to move forward with my life.”

Retreat Participant

GOALS

- **Provide a safe, reflective environment** for the participants to discuss their disease and recovery with other men with shared experiences, thereby providing support and information to help them in their recovery.
- **Provide expert fly-fishing instruction** that enables the participants to learn a new skill, form a healing connection with nature, and participate in a sport they can continue throughout their recovery and lifetime.
- **Provide participants information about cancer-related resources**, both in the local community and nationally to facilitate networking and enhanced management of their recovery.

If you would like to be a participant or a volunteer, please contact us.

National: Toll Free 800-699-4490 www.reelrecovery.org info@reelrecovery.org

Texas: 817-894-7832 Mike Emerson mgemerson44@yahoo.com www.texasreelrecovery.org

WHAT'S THE POINT?



Did a stay-at-home order create an *opportunity* for you to spend some time standing in an open grassy space in the local park with your fly rod in hand? If yes, you are amongst the many that are using some of this “free” time to *practice* your fly casting.

We Casting Instructors are thrilled with the thought that more anglers are practicing – it is what we are constantly encouraging people to do – even before the pandemic. But now that you are, are you *seeing results*?

Is fly casting practice something new for you? Or do you do it often, weekly maybe?

How is it going for you? Are you recognizing improvement?

Or are you experiencing confusion about what and how to practice?

Are you asking yourself “*What’s the point?*”

Just like fishing, the practice of practice can be fraught with frustrations. I certainly felt it in the early days, and still experience it when I am challenging myself to improve or to learn a new skill.

You probably have heard the saying, “Practice makes perfect” and maybe you have been driven to achieve *perfection*. But in reality, practice makes *permanent* so achieving perfection means *practicing perfection*. And perfect practice requires time and the application of effort. Time to practice? Check. So ... as you venture out to the park with rod, targets and practice fly in hand do you have a *plan* for your practice efforts? Do you know *what* to practice to achieve improvement?

I feel truly fortunate that before I even picked up a fly rod a skilled instructor described a “perfect” fly cast to me. The Goal:

to put the fly *on-target*. Simply put, more fish/the bigger fish/the challenging fish are caught with *accuracy*, not luck. Bad casts will occasionally land accurately, and occasionally fish are caught when the fly lands errantly, but that is where the luck comes in. And luck is hard to *replicate consistently*.

How do I consistently achieve accuracy? The answer was stated to me simply and as if it was read from the writing on an ancient scroll: learn to make a *tight loop*. An illustration of a tight loop was drawn on a piece of paper and we discussed how to make it, and *control* it, and the *benefits* of being able to consistently cast it ... and how to *vary* it. Wait ... what? You mean to tell me that once I learn to consistent cast a tight loop, then I need to change it??? Yes. Because being a successful angler means *adapting* to changing conditions and various situations. Create the *right loop for the situation* so that accuracy is achieved. Learning to make a tight loop is the starting goal, then learn to *repurpose* it. Make it unroll faster, then *slower*. Learn to make it as tight as possible, then make it a foot *wider*, then another foot wider, and wider, and wider ... until it is no longer a tight loop. Learn to *invert* the legs of the loop. Learn to make a tight loop casting *side-arm, cross-body, and off-shoulder* ... and when presenting a *back-hand* cast. Then: *practice, practice, practice*.

As I started working on my casting, I felt confident in *understanding the goal* and made plans on how to reach it. I knew *what* to practice!

Seek the knowledge of others and use the resources available to you to understand new or improved skills you need to fish for certain species or in certain conditions. Break down the skills into *small* practice sessions and *focus* on the perfect practice of one or two things.

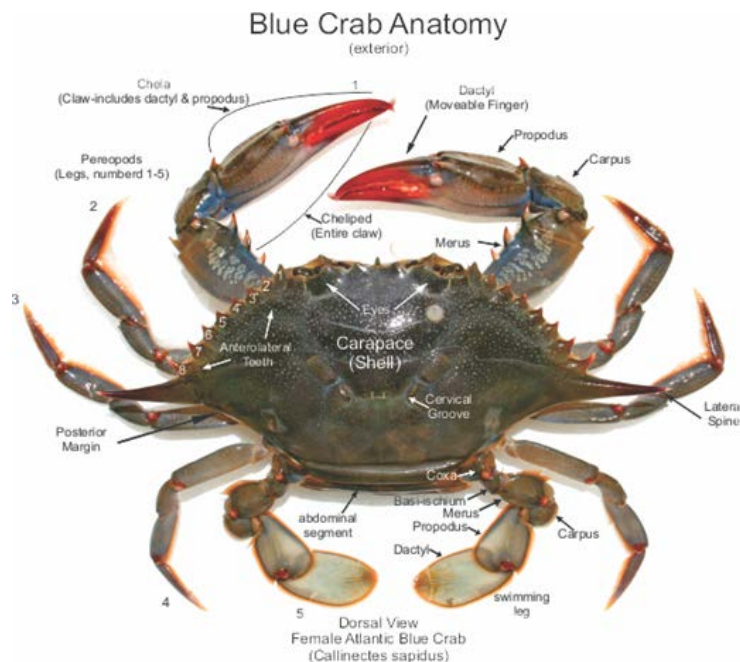
And as you apply your *practiced skills* to more and more fishing situations and challenges you should find that the point is: *practice catches fish*.

Stay safe and keep casting!

Captain Stacy Lynn
FFI-TX Council Casting Director
FFI Certified Instructor

DEL BROWN'S MERKIN CRAB

Del Brown (1918 - 2003) was known as the king of permit fishing with over 500 permit caught in his lifetime – a feat that will probably never be matched. It was a special fly, the Merkin Crab, that Del developed and perfected that lead to his success at catching one of the most elusive saltwater flats species. Crabs will migrate from one area to another by swimming near the surface using the tides and wind to propel them. This fly mimics a small or juvenile crab as they swim to the bottom when a predatory fish approaches them. It's the crab swimming to the bottom that permit key on. What makes this fly so special is the way it 'swims' to the bottom. A crab folds up its claws and non-swimming legs and swims sideways with its two swimming legs – the legs on the back of the crab. Because of the shape of a crab and the way the swimming legs move, a crab cannot swim straight down to avoid a predator - they swim to the bottom at an angle. The lead eyes, shape of the fly and the rubber band legs all combine to make Merkin Crab look like a small or juvenile crab as it swims at an angle to the bottom. Crabs, such as a juvenile blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), are a favorite food of many species besides permit, including red drum (redfish), black drum, speckled sea trout and sheepshead. This pattern can be tied with different color yarn and rubber bands to mimic several species of crabs. The patterned describe below is the traditional colors tied by Del Brown.



Materials

- Tiemco 811S size 4 or equivalent
- Medium dumb bell eyes – silver or grey
- Danville 3/0 thread or equivalent – fluorescent green
- Crystal flash
- Brown hackle feathers – 2
- Light brown, tan or multi-colored yarn – the color of the

yarn can vary depending on the species of crab but should be muted earth tones of brown, tan, gold, green or gray.

- White round rubber band legs
- Red marker

Steps



1. Tie the thread in just behind the eye as a thread base for the lead eyes. Then tie the dumb bell eyes right behind the eye of the hook on the top of the hook. This will make the hook point ride up.



2. Wrap the thread from the dumb bell eyes to just a little past the bend of the hook.

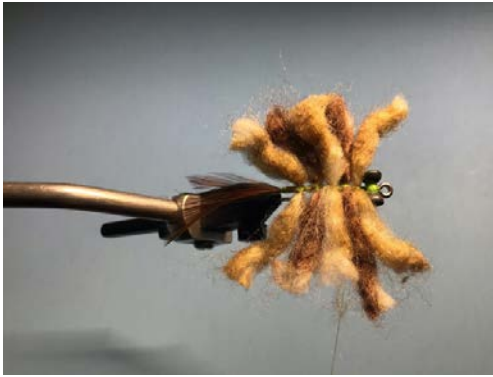


3. Tie in 4-6 strands of Crystal flash at the bend of the hook so they point up at about a 30 degree angle when the fly is riding hook point up. Then splay 2 brown hackles at the bend of the hook making sure they point out

from each other and up at about a 30 degree angle like the Crystal Flash. These feathers mimic the claws of the crab. The feathers should be 1 ½ times the length of the hook.

4. Cut 5 lengths of yarn about 1 1/2 inches long. Tie in the yarn on the top of the hook using X wraps, starting at the bend of the hook and finishing just behind the dumb bell eyes. The yarn

DEL BROWN'S MERKIN CRAB -CONTD.



should be evenly spaced and exactly perpendicular to the hook shank. If you are using multiple colored yarn, vary the colors to give the fly a mottled look.

under-over overhand knots, the rubber band legs will be exactly perpendicular to the hook shank. If you use a single overhand knot, the rubber band legs will come off of the hook shank at an angle and not be perpendicular to the hook shank.

8. Trim the rubber band legs so they are approximately the width of the yarn body.

9. With the red marker, color the last 1/8 inch of each of the legs.



5. Trim the yarn to give the crab a teardrop shape with the narrowest part near the dumb bell eyes. (Many tiers cut the yarn to make the fly look like a circle. Del Brown's original pattern was teardrop shaped so that it sank to the

bottom at an angle.) Start by trimming the yarn just behind the dumb bell eyes at the same length as the dumb bell eyes. Then taper the yarn so that the closer to the hook bend, the longer the yarn. Then just past the middle of the fly round off the yarn to give the fly a teardrop shape. The widest part of the yarn should be about 7/8s of an inch.

6. Wrap the thread forward to the eye of the hook and whip finish the thread.



7. Tie in 4 pieces of round white rubber legs. The legs should be evenly spaced between the dumb bell eyes and the bend of the hook – put one rubber band leg between each of the pieces of yarn. For each

rubber band leg, use 2 overhand knots on the bottom of the hook shank (closest to the hook point). The first overhand knot should be an over-under knot and the second overhand knot should be an under-over knot. By alternating the over-under and



If you have any questions, please reach out to me at southsideflycasting@gmail.com

Ron Mayfield
Umpqua Fly Designer
FFI Casting Instructor

TEXAS COUNCIL SUPPORT LETTER



Thank you for your support of the Texas Council and Fly Fishers International. Just as the Texas Council focus is on the member clubs, the larger FFI focus is to ensure the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters continues by focusing on conservation, education and a sense of community.

To align ourselves with this national strategy, the Texas Council is focusing on our local clubs. Our goal is to provide a source of community feedback, support, direction and funding to assist local clubs with the grassroots movement and avocation that is fly fishing.

To this end, our council is seeking funding to help. We will always be grateful for donations we receive, but in 2020 we will also focus on raising funds through our newsletter. We will promote the FFI Texas Council and our newsletter through the Texas Council website, social media, through our clubs across the state, and through the National FFI website.

The Texas Council newsletter has been in place for many years now, and has successfully promoted both commercial and non-profit activities both across the state and nationally. With our growing group of over 1,000 members throughout the state, our newsletter is uniquely positioned to reach niche market customers for your business.

Please consider advertising in our Council's newsletter. We have a very affordable advertising rate for the reach you will receive with your ad, which includes placement in all four newsletters.

Prices for advertising with the Texas Council newsletter's four issues are:

- Business Card - \$50 a year
- 1/4 page color ad - \$100 a year
- 1/2 page color ad - \$200 a year
- FULL page color ad - \$300 a year (That's only \$75 a season!)

The newsletter will be published four times a year. Each edition will publish at the beginning of each season, as follows:

Deadline for content and advertising

Spring Deadline: **March 1st**

Newsletter sent out **March 20th**

Summer Deadline: **June 1st**

Newsletter sent out **June 21st**

Fall Deadline: **September 1st**

Newsletter sent out **September 22nd**

Winter Deadline: **December 1st**

Newsletter sent out **December 21st**

Thank you for your support in the past, and we look forward to your future involvement with the Texas Council to promote fly fishing across Texas.

Contact us at: president@texascouncilffi.com

or

pastpresident@texascouncilffi.com

Thanks,

Your Texas Council

THANK YOU!

Presidents

I must praise the many, many great volunteers that make up the Texas Council, and the clubs that are across our great state. Especially the club Presidents that never get the praise they deserve. This year, we have many new faces as club Presidents, and we want to personally Thank them for all they do, and will do this and hopefully many years. The last time we checked, the annual pay rate has not changed, none, and yet these men and women continue to work hard to make their respective clubs the best they can be. One might ask, why they do it? That's a great question. Since I was one, and President of the Council currently, we do it because of the relationships we make, we do it for the love of the sport, we do it to conserve the area we are so passionate about, and we do it because there is the need. So again, Thank You Club Presidents for your commitment and dedication to our communities, our sport, and for our fellow club members. Hat's off!!!

Here is your current list of Presidents for 2020:

Abilene Fly Fishers	Abilene	Gil DeShazo
Alamo Fly Fishers	San Antonio	Todd Fleming
Austin Fly Fishers	Austin	Dave Bush
Central Texas Fly Fisher	San Marcos	Maurice Larrimore
Dallas Fly Fishers	Dallas	Al Hillman
Fort Worth Fly Fishers	Fort Worth	David Hooper
Fredericksburg Fly Fishers	Fredricksburg	Gary Killion
Hill Country Fly Fishers	Kerrville	Dennis Glenewinkel
Lonestar Fly Fishers	Tyler	Mike Maris
Lubbock Fly Fishers	Lubbock	David Crawford
Montgomery County Fly Rodders	Conroe	Chuck Holmes
New Braunfels Fly Fishers	New Braunfels	Dan Cone
Pineywoods Fly Fishers	Lufkin	Walter Mclendon
Red River Fly Fishers	Sherman	Reid Winger
San Gabriel Fly Fishers	San Gabriel	James Reese
Texas Fly Fishers	Houston	Don Puckett
Texas Women's Fly Fishers	Austin	Dana Williams
Waco Fly Fishers	Waco	Bob Hanley
Collin County Fly Fishing Club	Wylie	Kevin Grogan
Collin County Fishers	Plano	Jerry Walker
Kekoa Outdoors	Melissa	Chris Gorman
Rowlett Fishers	Royce City	Derrick Meis
SCTX Fly Fishing Club	Georgetown	Fred Dupre'
Conroe Fly Fishers	Conroe	William Heugel

Volunteers

With that being said, we must also say a BIG Thank You to all of the volunteers that make up the Texas Council. These volunteers also do a great job, putting activities together for clubs, focus on conservation across the state, help educate the youth and fly fishers across the state, while also enjoying fly fishing in the many great waters our state has to offer. This is a great group of men and women that are focused in serving Texas in an amazing way. And there is still a need for more men and women to join our efforts. If you are interested in joining our council or any club as a volunteer, please do so. You will enjoy it very much, and make new friends that are committed to making Texas a great place to fly fish. Help us educate and conserve our great waters, and make a difference. To join up as a volunteer, simply contact a club or a Board of Director of the Texas Council. We can be reached at president@texascouncilfff.com.

President – Andy Payne
 Vice President – Barry Webster
 Casting Director – Stacy Lynn
 Treasurer – Reid Winger
 Secretary - James Reese
 Board Member at Large - Dutch Baughman
 Tying Director – Ron Mayfield
 Women's Director - Julia Bell
 Education Director - Matt Bennett
 Development / Membership Chairman - Rick Haness
 Conservation Director - David Reichert
 Webmaster - David Reichert
 Youth Director - Austin Orr
 TPWD Liaison - Keira Quam
 Past President – Jerry Hamon
 Social Media / Newsletter – Russell Husted

KEEP OUR FISHERIES HEALTHY



KEEPEMWET* &
RELEASE FISH PROPERLY

GO BARBLESS & LEAD-FREE



PACK OUT ALL TRASH

CLEAN YOUR BOATS, BOOTS & WADERS



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG

KEEPEMWET* is a registered trademark of CORKERWET FISHING®

Texas Council Clubs

Club	City	Website/Email
Abilene Fly Fishers	Abilene	www.facebook.com/abileneflyfishers
Alamo Fly Fishers	San Antonio	www.alamoflyfishers.org
Austin Fly Fishers	Austin	www.austinflyfishers.com
Collin County Fishers	Plano	jerry.walker@projecthealingwaters.org
Collin County Fly Fishing Club	Wylie	www.collincountyflyfishing.org
Conroe Fly Fishers	Conroe	txfritz4134@suddenlink.net
Corpus Christi Fly Fishers Inc	Corpus Christi	www.lmflyfishers.com
Dallas Flyfishers	Dallas	www.dallasflyfishers.org
Fort Worth Fly Fishers	Fort Worth	www.fortworthflyfishers.org
Fredericksburg Fly Fishers	Fredericksburg	www.fredericksburgflyfishers.org
Hill Country Fly Fishers	Kerrville	www.hcff.org
Kekoa Outdoors	Melissa	www.kekoaoutdoors.org
Lone Star Fly Fishers	Tyler	www.lonestarflyfishers.com
Lubbock Fly Fishers Inc	Lubbock	www.lubbockflyfishers.org
New Braunfels Fly Fishers	New Braunfels	www.facebook.com/newbraunfelsflyfishers
Pineywoods Fly Fishers	Lufkin	www.pwff.org
Red River Fly Fishers	Sherman	www.rrff.org
Rowlett Fishers	Royse City	derrick.meis@projecthealingwaters.org
San Gabriel Fly Fishers Inc	Georgetown	www.sgflyfishers.com
SCTX Fly Fishing Club	Georgetown	flytyerfred@gmail.com
Texas Flyfishers	Houston	www.texasflyfishers.org
Texas Women Fly Fishers	Fort Worth	www.twff.net



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN FFI

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Access to exclusive features and content on our website including:

- The New Learning Center
- The *Flyfisher* magazine
- The Tying Times newsletter and Fly of the Month
- The Loop - The Journal of Fly Casting Professionals
- The Fly Tying Video Library (over 300 videos!)
- Exclusive Discounts on Hotels, Car Rentals and Insurance
- Searchable Casting, Fly Tying, Guide and Club Directories
- Fun Fly Tying and Casting Challenges

Discounted entry into FFI events

FFI Decals and Patch

Most importantly, the knowledge that you are helping to preserve fish habitats, the education of our next generation of fly fishers and our on-going conservation efforts.

AT THE FFI HEADQUARTERS IN LIVINGSTON, MONTANA


- The 2018 FFI Annual Fair held in Boise, ID, was jam packed with hundreds of workshops, seminars, famous authors and over 100 expert tiers and casters sharing their skills.

- FFI just launched the Learning Center with online classes in Fly Casting, Fly Tying, Fly Fishing Skills, and Conservation Education for the benefit of FFI members and the fly fishing community.

- Our ever-growing fly fishing museum includes the 7th fiber-glass rod ever made, the Fritz Gerds collection that includes over 150 fly plates, and an impressive collection of Lee Wulff memorabilia.

- FFI has provided grants and joined our partners in fighting mining proposals on the Menominee River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, in the pristine Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota, in Alaska's Bristol Bay and the Yellowstone Park watershed in Montana. These efforts will protect thousands of river and stream miles that impact our opportunities to fly fish.

**PLEASE RENEW
TODAY!**



**Please join us in our fight to
preserve and protect our fly
fishing heritage, so future
generations can enjoy it too.**

FFI TEXAS COUNCIL IS AT WORK IN YOUR REGION!



We now have 19 clubs throughout the state!

*Visit www.texascouncilfff.com
to learn all the happenings in your council*

Llano River Flood:

With YOUR help, the Texas Council (TxC) is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife to create a strategic plan to help restore the storm ravaged Llano River in Texas. The long-term outlook for fish populations depends on how riverside landowners and communities respond to the aftermath of downed trees and other debris deposited along the river.



Hill Country Youth Ranch:

The TxC awarded Hill Country Fly Fishers (one of its local clubs) an educational grant to purchase fly rods for the Hill Country Youth Ranch of Leakey, Texas. The youth ranch is a non-profit organization that helps abused and orphaned children.

YOUR support helps provide therapy for these kids through fly fishing!



Fairs/Shows/Clinic:

YOUR membership dollars allow the TxC and its clubs to be committed to offering tying, casting demos, and Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badges throughout the year. The council and its clubs are also very involved in Casting for Recovery and Project Healing Waters.



**YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
HELPS US CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS
AND
SO MUCH MORE!**



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

5237 US Highway 89 S #11
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-9369 | www.flyfishersinternational.org

NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General 1-Year \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying Group 1-Year \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General 3-Years \$90 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying Group 3-Years \$48.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior - (65+) \$25 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying Group Lifetime \$285 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran - \$25 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Guides Association 1-Year \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Student - (22 and under) \$20 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Guides Association 3-Years \$70 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business - \$100 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Casting Renewal 1-Year \$45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime - \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Casting Renewal 3-Years \$120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Premium - \$1500 ** | (Casting Renewal is for certified instructors only) |

Printed Copy of the *Flyfisher* Magazine ☐ US residents - \$10/yr ☐ International residents - \$20/yr

(All members have access to our magazine by logging into www.flyfishersinternational.org)

NOTE: -General memberships include spouses, cohabitating partners and children under 18 years of age.
-Lifetime memberships include spouses and cohabitating partners.
-In order to join a specialty group (Guide, Fly Tying, Casting) you must also maintain an FFI membership.

*Membership eligible for up to 3-year purchase (multiply price by number of years)

**Includes custom built TFO rod. Refer to: <http://www.tforods.com/fly-fishing/custom-fly-rods.html>

Membership Number (renewals) _____ New Member

Name _____

Business Name (for Business memberships only) _____

Business Website _____

Street Address / PO Box _____

City/State/Zip/ _____ Country _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Club Affiliation _____

If you are a new member, is there an FFI Club or Council that you would like to receive credit for the Rod Credit Program? _____

Total Charge \$ _____ Auto Renew? ☐ Yes, I want to save time & resources!

Credit Card or check # _____ Exp. Date _____

☐ Please do not share my information with organizations outside of FFI.