

WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 36, Issue 6, September 2017

A River Runs Through...

my front door. Well, that was not exactly the case at the Casa de Sumers but, unfortunately, all I had to do was go a couple of doors down and that was exactly happened.

Friday, August 25, 2017, was the beginning of a weekend that that many Texans will remember as the day Hurricane Harvey came to visit and, like Cousin Eddie, didn't seem that he was ever going to leave. There is no need to re-hash the landfall location, rainfall amounts or, how many years we might have lost from our life clock, I think the networks did a good enough job of that. While not personally suffering any major losses from these events, I had plenty of friends who weren't quite so lucky. And, after helping rip out dry wall, pulling insulation or yanking out water logged carpet and floors, I now know why I chose a career in a clean environment like the oil field and not in storm reclamation services.

While some of our members and friends of the club suffered extensive damage to their homes and businesses, to my knowledge, there was no loss of life and to that, we can all be grateful but, they still have a long and hard road ahead, restoring their lives to some sense of normalcy. If you have the opportunity to help your neighbor cleaning up the mess, hauling the mess off or, just going by with a plate of sandwiches and a cooler with drinks, please do. It will be greatly appreciated. - *Continued*

September Monthly Meeting.

The September Monthly meeting of the Texas FlyFishers will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2017. This month's speaker will be the Guru of West Bay, Joe DeForke.

Things get going with the social hour at 6:30 pm and, the meeting kicking off at 7:00 pm. See additional information in "What's Coming Up"

Also, in this issue...

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • What's Coming Up – September Meeting – Speaker Joe DeForke, Reel Recovery, Outings | Page 3 |
| • <i>New</i> – Andy's Casting Notes by Andy Payne | Page 4 |
| • Mark Your Calendars – October Meeting, Outings, Oktoberfisch, Carp-A-Thon | Page 6 |
| • Special – The Texas Brigade / The 2 nd Brigade of the Coastal Battalion by Spence McNamara | Page 7 |
| • Fly of the Month – The Electric Smoke | Page 10 |

Windknots

Harvey – Continued:

Also, the friends of the club, the guides along the Coastal Bend and the Upper Coast, who are always so generous to the Texas FlyFishers, were hit extremely hard. Port Aransas, Aransas Pass and Rockport, Beaumont and Sabine Pass currently look like a war zone and, while everyone is doing their dead level best to get the debris cleaned up and the rebuilding underway, having these locations ready to accept tourists and the weekend fishermen is going to be a long, drawn out project that is going to take years to get back to pre-Harvey condition. However, if there is one shining spot to all of this, it is the fishing. I have talked to several of our friends down the coast and, when they could get out, they reported that the fishing has been good AND, we all like to hear that.

I know that many of us fish from our own boats or kayaks and usually don't rely on the services of a guide. But, if you're wanting to hit the water, consider a guided trip down to Rockport, Aransas Pass or, Sabine Lake. Fall is a fine time to be out on the water and, if the cost of a guided trip is outside your budget, consider asking a friend or, a fellow member to go along and split the fee, I'm sure most of us can afford it. Not only will this give you a chance to spend a great day on the water but, you'll also be helping with the rebuilding process. Friends helping Friends, that's what Texas Strong is all about! *Chris Sumers*

Editor's Notes:

In efforts to keep our newsletter fresh and, an interesting read, this month the Windknots is introducing a new column that will cover many aspects of casting with TFF member Andy Payne, who is a FFI Certified Casting Instructor, serving as the contributor for this new column. I hope you enjoy and benefit from Andy's effort.

We also have a report from Spence McNamara updating us on the Texas Brigade and, the newly formed Coastal Brigade. Back in July, The Texas FlyFishers were invited to participate with the Coastal Brigade. The tried and true Brigades model of leadership development, education, and empowerment continues at Coastal Brigade. On Wednesday July 26, Dave Steffek led the team in fly tying and fly casting. The young participants learned the basics about both and were taught how to tie a wooly bigger/ worm. On Friday July 28, Club President, Marcos Enriquez was ask to join in on the fly tying and then, judge the flies that were tied during the day. Marcos commented that "the future looks good with these young people. The flies that were tied and created were incredible."





Here's What's Coming Up!

Keep in Mind:

FYI, Following the August 25, 2017 landfall of Hurricane Harvey and, under the provisions of Parks and Wildlife Code, the Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has ordered to extend the period of validity of specific licenses issued by the department until September 30, 2017. However, if you haven't renewed your fishing and hunting license, and required stamps, you need to do so.

Monthly Meeting:

Tuesday, September 27, 2017: The speaker for September Monthly Meeting will be longtime Texas FlyFisher member Joe DeForke. The title of Joe's presentation will be "Fly Fishing 101 for West Galveston Bay".

Joe is a long time club member who lives on West Galveston Bay and has been fishing those bay waters for decades. Joe will be discussing the habitat of the bay, locations which hold various species of game fish, flies to use, gear to use and other topics related to fishing West Galveston bay by boat, kayak or by just wading. This is a great opportunity to learn from the Master of West Bay!



The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074. Social hour and fly tying starts at 6:30 pm and the meeting kicks off at 7:00 pm. *And*, don't forget the casting instruction taking place outside (weather permitting), beginning around 6:00 pm.

Education: Tying at Cabela's in League City

Thanks to Hurricane Harvey, The Texas FlyFishers League City Tying Team will be tying up some Redfish Patterns at the Cabela's store located at 2421 S Gulf Freeway (I-45 South) in League City, TX 77573, on Sunday, September 24th, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. If you are interested in tying, please contact Clay Sheward at [claysheward\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:claysheward(at)gmail(dot)com)

Reel Recovery:

The October 6-8, 2017 Navasota Reel Recovery Retreat is less than a month away and, the Retreat needs a couple more participants. If you know of anyone that is recovering from Cancer that may be interested in the Retreat, refer them to the website, Reelrecovery.org to submit an application. They can also contact Dave Steffek at (713) 202-0101 for further information about the retreat.

Outings: -

Freshwater – Garcitas Creek

Due to Hurricane Harvey, the September outing to Garcitas Creek, originally scheduled for September 9th, 2017 has been cancelled.

Windknots

Here's What's Coming Up - Continued

Saltwater - 2017 Padre Island National Seashore (PINS) Updated - September 29 – October 1, 2017

This is the outing where we take four-wheel drive vehicles down Padre Island National Seashore during the anchovy migration, and target blitzing schools of ladyfish, jacks, redfish, and tarpon...and other denizens of in the surf.



Based on past years' experience, we will meet up at noon on Friday (9/29) at the Malaquite Visitors Center (PINS Headquarters) and begin our run down the beach, fishing our way to Mile Marker (MM) 40± area and setting up camp in that area. We may be able to get by Big Shell by taking the high road.

Then, after a good night's sleep and Saturday (9/30) morning coffee and breakfast, we'll fish down to the Port Mansfield jetties. Fall brings bait migrations and large schools of predators that feed on them. The water is typically clear (much more so than Galveston). Then, we'll head on back up the beach, picking a spot to set up camp in the MM 40 - 30 area.

On Sunday (10/1) morning, we'll break camp and fish back to the Malaquite Visitors Center for a shower (the Malaquite Pavilion offers public showers to get off the sand and salt before the drive home. Our back-up plan will be the following weekend if there is a conflict, or weather related issues.

The leader for this outing is Don "Puck" Puckett, Phone: (two ate 1) 865 dash 32 sixteen; e-mail: doncpuckett (at) gee male (dot) com



For additional information on this outing, check the thread on the Texas FlyFishers website at <https://texasflyfishers.org/2016/10/16/tff-pins-2017-surf-fishing-trip/>

Andy's Casting Notes:

Is it Possible to Increase your Enjoyment of Fly Fishing by Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of your Fishing Casts?

By Andy Payne, CCI

There are millions of fly fishermen (women) in the world who fish well and catch lots of fish without ever thinking about whether they cast a fly line *effectively* or *efficiently*. After all, the idea is to catch fish and have fun not pursue an educational process, right? *If it ain't broke don't fix it!*

If this accurately describes your approach to fly fishing and the necessity of casting a fly line to do so, you may actually be able to add to your enjoyment by learning to make more effective and efficient fishing casts. I fished for 15 years catching enough fish to take about all the photos of fish I could ever want but had no idea what was meant by effectiveness and efficiency in casting. - *Continued*

Windknots

Andy's Casting Notes - Continued

I also knew that over the years I faced many fishing problems for which I had no casting solution. I attended a couple of FFF (formerly IFFF, now FFI) Fairs in Livingston, MT, caught the casting bug and ultimately became a Certified Casting Instructor. And, you are right, after 15 more years and passing the CCI exam there are still fishing situations where I do not have the solution, just fewer of them.

By discussing effectiveness and efficiency in casting I hope to motivate some fly casters to expand their knowledge of casting dynamics with the goal of more productive and comfortable fishing in the years to come.

An effective fly cast achieves at least the following objectives:

1. delivers the fly to the selected target,
2. promotes a fly presentation most likely to attract a fish,
3. and, places the fisherman in the best position to successfully hook, play and land a fish that takes the fly.

Effectiveness requires that upon completion of the cast:

1. the fly line point toward the target with virtually no **unplanned slack**,
2. the leader also points toward the target,
3. the fly lands within inches of the target,
4. and, the fly rod touches the water pointing in the direction of the target.

If these parameters are achieved the caster can strip six inches of line and move the fly six inches. If there are six feet of slack anywhere in the system it will require two three-foot strips of the line to tighten line on a striking fish. In many cases this would result in failure to hook the fish.

Common sources of **unplanned slack** include the distance between the rod tip and the surface of the water, curves/loops in the fly line, or curves/loops in the leader. **Planned slack** includes aerial mends or slack line casts that are intended to counter the effects of current on the drift of the fly. When using planned slack, it becomes necessary to keep the slack to a minimum as the cast plays out to improve the likelihood of hooking any fish that takes the fly.

So where do **unplanned** curves and loops in your fly line and leader come from? Some sources include failure to follow the Essentials of Fly Casting as documented by Bill and Jay Gammel in their 1993 book of the same name. If the caster fails to wait between the back cast and presentation cast long enough to permit the line to completely straighten (Essential #1), load on the rod for the presentation cast will be inadequate and result in a weak cast that collapses on the water with the fly several feet short of the target. Many casters will see this and pull more line off the reel believing the problem to be not enough line. This approach simply compounds the error.

The Essentials of Fly Casting speak directly to keeping slack to an absolute minimum in Essential #2. Essential #4 and #5 talk about casting arc (and stroke) and application of power to – *Continued*





Andy's Casting Notes - Continued

achieve straight line casts. Straight line casts with sufficient power allow the caster to turn the presentation cast over completely and straighten the leader toward the target.

Next month we can continue this discussion with focus on casting efficiency. If anyone has questions or comments about this message you can send them to andy@payneconsult.net

Mark Your Calendars:

Meetings:

Tuesday, October 27, 2017: The October Monthly Meeting will be a Texas Brigade / Young Angler Program headed up by Spence McNamara and several of the young anglers in the club. Details are being finalized and will be updated on the website and in the next issue of *Windknots*. See Spence's article on the Texas Brigade.

The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074. Social hour and fly tying starts at 6:30pm and the meeting kicks off at 7:00 pm. *And*, don't forget the casting instruction taking place outside (weather permitting), beginning around 6:00 pm

Outings:

Freshwater Outing: Fishing the Sabine River, Below the Generation Canal - October 28th, 2017

We'll be fishing the Sabine River below the generation canal. We plan to fish the generation canal, but if the generators startup we will quickly shift our efforts to the lake. Launch and take-out will be the either the new boat launch on the generation canal. Species targeted are , LMG, KLMB, yellow sunfish, white bass, gar (3 species), catfish (2 species) and, if extremely lucky, striped bass.

Outing Leaders: Don "Puck" Puckett, Phone: (281) 865(dash)32I6 E-mail: doncpuckett(at)gmaile(dot)com and, and Skip Donovan, Phone: (seven 1 three) 8 two 2- zero0sixnine; e-mail: skipdonovan1(at)sbcglobal(dot)net

Saltwater Outing: Redfish Rodeo, Port O'Connor, Texas – October 14, 2017

It's time for the Annual Redfish Rodeo and, this year's event will be October 14th, 2017 in Port O'Connor, Texas. We're currently working to finalize the details but, here's what we have and, what we're working on. This will be a **Catch-Photograph-Release** format; there will be two divisions, Boat and Kayak. Prizes will be awarded for the Longest Redfish caught from boat and kayak. There will also be a wildcard requirement included that will be discussed at the September monthly meeting, along with a few other details. An E-vite will be sent out as soon as the details are finalized. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September Monthly Meeting. The leader for this outing will be Chris Sumers; Phone: (two 8 one) 6 nine 2 – ate nine six two; e-mail: csumers(at)comcast(dot)net



Mark Your Calendars – Continued

Oktoberfisch: Saturday, October 20-22, 2017

Oktoberfisch, sponsored by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers will held at the South Llano River RV Park, 210 Cedar Creek Rd., Junction, TX 76849. <https://www.fredericksburgflyfishers.com/about-oktoberfisch>

Carp-A-Thon 2017: Saturday, October 28, 2017

The Carp-A-Thon 2017 event will be held on October 28, 2017, with the Willow Waterhole once again being the center of operations. In the event of inclement weather, November 4, 2017 has been set as the rain date of November 4, 2017. The event details are being finalized and the complete event information will be announced on the website and, in the *Windknots*. To volunteer or, for more information, please contact Paul Akscyn at (713) 306-5310 or, by e-mail at paul.akscyn@yahoo.com.

The Texas Brigade:

The 2nd Battalion of the Coastal Brigade

By Spence McNamara

The Texas Brigades consists of six educational programs covering virtually all aspects of wildlife, fisheries, and land management. The independent programs are the Bobwhite Brigade (quail), Buckskin Brigade (deer), Bass Brigade (bass), Waterfowl Brigade (ducks and geese), Ranch Brigade (cattle) and the newest program, the Coastal Brigade (marine life).

Having been a member of the 1st Battalion of the Coastal Brigade in July 2016, I applied for and was accepted to work as an Assistant School Leader for the 2nd Battalion. The camp took place at the Sea Star Base Galveston during July 2017. Each Brigade camp is organized into six smaller units – “schools” in the Bass and Coastal Brigades – and each of these units has an Assistant School Leader as well as an adult School Leader.

There is a good reason why participants are called cadets and they belong to a battalion. Every day begins before sunrise, ends well after sunset and there is near military precision in how the activities are organized and executed. And yes we march!

As an Assistant School Leader (ASL), I was given the opportunity to help lead and guide one these schools during the week. The ASL’s, since they were previously a Cadet at the particular Brigade program, are an important component of the program because they serve as a bridge between the cadets and the adult leadership. They “know the ropes” and can help the Cadets with various tasks and assignments. The first task the cadets undertake is to agree on a name for their school.



Windknots

The 2nd Battalion of the Coastal Brigade - Continued

Our first choice – the Suns of Beaches – was, for some reason rejected by the adult leadership. While I didn't have a vote, I did think it was a pretty clever pun and it certainly provided an initial clue into what type of school I was going to work with. Forced to return to the drawing board and facing a time constraint, the group decided to call themselves the Bombin' Barracudas.

The school structure is a very important part of the overall Brigade experience. The camps are very intense, the work can be hard, the hours are long, the expectations are high, fun is earned not given, and – as they say, it is definitely “the hardest week you will ever love.” In this environment your school quickly becomes your family and tight friendships are developed in a matter of hours. Many of my closest friends are from my Brigade experiences. Even though they live all over Texas, we share a common bond and see each other throughout the year at various venues promoting the Brigades.



Throughout the week, the cadets compete for a chance to be named the Top School at the end of camp. The competition is real and stiff – besides the bragging rights - the Top School receives a treasure chest of prizes that have been graciously donated by a number of sponsors. This year the prizes included a complete Shimano spin fishing set up, a guided fishing trip in the

Gulf, a guided deer hunt, and a shark tagging excursion as part of a research project at Texas A&M, and many other great prizes. Every day each school earns points from quizzes, games, giving presentations, fly tying competitions, room inspections, etc. We were told that this year's competition for Top School was the closest in 8 years and, as luck would have it, the Barracudas were the winners. I am looking forward to trading in the fly rod for a day of deep water Gulf fishing.

The experience of being an Assistant School Leader, while equally as memorable, was very different than being a cadet. The first difference is that as an ASL you are “management” and have different expectations and responsibilities than a cadet does. The objectives of an ASL are to help the cadets and their school have fun, learn new skills and information, develop as a team, improve communication, and learn how to march! The second difference is that you get to see “behind the scenes” about how hard people work, how much planning goes into putting the camp on, and how many problems can potentially arise. I am especially appreciative of the adult volunteers who happily gave up their time to come down to Galveston to teach the cadets when the temperature and humidity were both in the high 90's. The volunteers from the Texas FlyFishers of Houston did an outstanding job introducing and instructing fly casting. Many of the cadets commented on how much they enjoyed that part of the camp. - *Continued*



Windknots

The 2nd Battalion of the Coastal Brigade - Continued

I'm quite sure that several will be applying for the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Trout Camp in January as a direct result of their experience at Coastal Brigade. In addition to the fly casting instruction, members of Texas FlyFishers of Houston taught fly tying and oversaw the fly tying competition. Thanks so much to everybody that was involved! Finally, the third difference is that it is a lot harder and more time consuming to be a leader – even an ASL – than it is to be a participant.



Outing Reports:

There are no outing reports for this month. Check back next month.

Attention Fly Tyers: *From Joe Nicklo*

I have a brand new in the box Atlas Anvil Rotary Fly Tying Vise for sale (under current market price) at \$135 (no tax) pickup or delivery at next meeting. Excellent vise with exceptional design and tying features. Comes with both pedestal and clamp base. Will handle hook size 7/0 to 32. This is a vise used by pros that will last for a life-time and can be used by both the beginning and advanced fly tier. If interested, call 713-822-8106 or e-mail at hmgflys@comcast.net or jnicklo@comcast.net.



Fly of the Month:

Electric Smoke

Designed and Tied by Fred Hannie



Materials

Hook: 2X streamer size 10 – 6

Thread: White

Tail: White or Gray Marabou

Body: Lead wire .025 and 50 lb. test mono

Eyes: 1/8”

Head: Diamond Hard UV resin

Head Accent: Blue micro glitter, Grey marker

This is essentially my Marsh Candy pattern which is a variation of the Surf Candy in a unique color combination that has been very successful on many species of freshwater fish. It's a durable fly that can take some abuse and it is also an adaptable pattern that allows you to change its appearance as easy as swapping markers. The micro glitter can be found at most craft stores and usually comes in kits that have multiple colors. The color in this step by step is electric smoke which is grey on top white on bottom and covered in bright blue glitter. There are many color combinations that work extremely well on crappie and other panfish and I'm sure you have your favorites but this color needs to be in your fly box. The size and color of this fly mimics the mosquito fish and the fathead minnow.

Once you have the steps down for this pattern you can experiment with different color markers, glitter and tails. Just remember to change the hook size when targeting larger species.

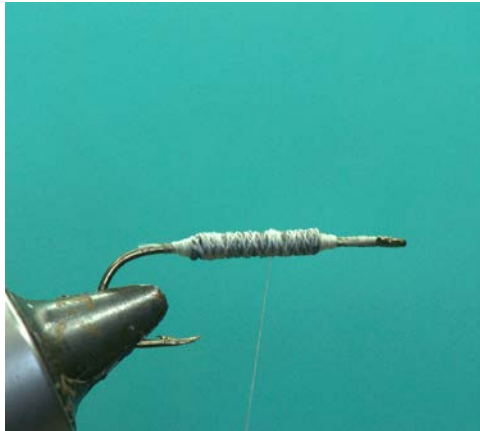
Windknots

Fly of the Month: - Continued

Tying Instructions:

Step 1

With the hook in the vise tie on with the white thread and wrap down a nice thread base. Centered in the middle of the hook shank, wrap on ten neat .025 lead wraps. Wrap thread over the lead to secure it to the hook.



Step 2

Tie in your tail material behind the lead wraps. The tail material should be equal to or less the length of the hook shank.



Windknots

Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 3

To add bulk and translucence to the fly two pieces of 50 lb. mono are tied to the top and bottom of the hook. Use lengths of mono that are slightly longer than the thread wraps while leaving a small gap behind the hook eye to add lips.



Step 4

Bend two pieces of 50 lb. mono over the hook and under the fly to form lips. The now four strands of mono can be trimmed just before the tail to give the fly some added girth. Wrap over the mono to secure it in place.



Step 5

Whip finish the fly at this point. With a marker or markers you can now color the threads. On this fly we will use some gray on the back. Add the color sparingly at first as the marker will quickly wick down the threads.



Windknots

Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 6

Place the eyes in place and apply the UV resin to cover them and work the resin into the threads. Before curing the resin sprinkle on the micro glitters to taste and cure the resin with the torch.



Try this fly in this color and let your imagination go wild trying other color combinations.

Fred Hannie is a long time tyer at the Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival and recently, became a member of the Texas FlyFishers. Fred's eye for detail and, his abilities to put materials to hook, produces some of the most realistic and, productive patterns anywhere. *Thank you for your contribution, Fred!*





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For additional information, check out the Texas FlyFishers website at www.texasflyfishers.org

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 Harris County District 3 Bayland Park Community Center, located at 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, Texas 77074, 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: _____

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