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Houston, Texas 77227-7141

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Writers: Mitch Whitney, John Hannah, Eliot Tucker

February Meeting

DATE: February 28, 1984
PLACE: St. John's Episcopal Church
Room 010, Education Bldg.
River Oaks and Westheimer
TIME: 7:30 Fit To Be Tied - The Pheasant Tail Nymph - Brooks Bouldin
8:00 Main Program - Fly Fishing For Redfish and Speckled Trout
Eliot Tucker and Jim Darby


Brooks
H. 7825376
D. 7822708

January Meeting


With a good turnout of 57 people waiting to see an excellent program, President Jim Darby kept the business portion of the meeting nice and short. He reported that the good-sized rainbows, purchased by Texas Trout Unlimited with an assist from our club, have been put in the Guadalupe, mainly at the lease.

Brooks Bouldin reported on the progress he and his hard-working committees have made on the First Texas Conclave. It sounds better all the time, and any fly fisher who misses it will be kicking himself for a long time afterward. If you haven't registered yet, shame on you. Do it now. Use the registration form on the back of this newsletter.

The main program at the January meeting was presented by John Hannah. An expert fly fisher and fluent writer, John is also a top-notch photographer, as his superb slide show on fishing New Zealand proved. We knew the the fishing was great in the land down under, but the stunning scenery was a surprise. The meeting concluded with some socializing and free-lance lie swapping.


The main program in February will be given by the Frick and Frack of the salt-water world, Eliot Tucker and Jim Darby. These guys know as much about fishing the flats for specks and reds as anybody, anywhere, and they know how to teach it. Be there. 

Orvis-Alaska

That old sourdough, Jim Davis, announces that Orvis will feature "Alaska Days" with Chip Marinella and Chris Child, experienced guides from Fontiers International, on successive Saturdays from 10:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. On February 18th, Chip will present a program on Alaskan float fishing trips. On February 25th, Chris will present a film, a fly tying seminar, and a casting demonstration. These will take place at the Orvis store and there is no charge. 

The First Texas Conclave

Our reporter, Mitch Whitney, who is doubling as the Auction Chairman for the Conclave, is landing some big prizes. Two of the latest are: two roundtrip tickets to anywhere in the continental United States where American Airlines flies; and three days at a Best Western Motel in Montana along with a float trip or casting school.

Our banquet speaker Saturday night will be Oscar Newton, one of the best after-dinner speakers in the country. March 16th is just around the corner, and even Aggies like Shepherd, Thanheiser, and Darby will admit that Austin in the springtime is a wonderful place. 

Big Boats Are Nice But Not Necessary

By: Eliot Tucker

Many prospective salt-water fishermen are discouraged because they don't have access to a boat. They should not be. Although having a fast, seaworthy boat is an advantage in salt-water fishing, it is hardly necessary.

There are a number of places where either a float tube, a canoe, or a tiny john boat is all that is needed to gain access to wade-fishing water that otherwise would be denied to the salt-water angler because of small channels to cross. Examples of this are the vast flats on both sides of the causeway between Port Aransas and Aransas Pass. Each side of the causeway has a channel that is too deep for wading but can be crossed in wither a float tube or canoe in a matter of moments.

One fisherman I know straps his rod to his back and crosses the Aransas ship channel on his surf board. Once across the channel you will need a solid anchor to hold your vessel so you can get out and wade. An example closer to home is the lagoon near the Galveston Jetties. This quiet and lovely body of water can be waded around the shoreline, but it is forty feet deep in the middle. It is fished from a canoe or float tube much more efficiently than by wading.

At San Luis Pass there are a number of cuts and channels behind the pass that separate someone from Bird Island or the flats behind Rooster Collins' bait camp. A canoe is all that is needed to cross. Here a float tube is not adequate. At Port O'Connor, Espiritu Santo Bay is a short paddle across the Intracoastal Canal through Fisherman's Cut where vast areas of flats are available. Don't be discouraged if you don't have a big, fast boat. Lots of excellent salt-water fishing is available to you if you have anything to float across the small channels that create barriers to some of Texas' best wade fishing. 🐟

Book Reviews

By: John Hannah

The Year Of The Angler , by Steve Raymond

with drawings by Dave Whitlock

Winchester Press.

For the fall 1983 issue of The Flyfisher, Steve Raymond, once editor of that magazine, wrote an article listing some of the best books ever written on the subject of fly fishing. He made one notable omission: a book called The Year Of The Angler, an omission which is understandable inasmuch as he is its author.

When this book was first published ten years ago it was very well received by anglers and by other readers of outdoor literature. It is newly available in a fresh printing which is adorned with drawings by Dave Whitlock, who is known to many TFFers.

This book of essays and angling autobiography is in the same format as Roderick L. Haig-Brown's A River Never Sleeps, covering the calendar year. There are other similarities: both treat heavily on fishing in the Pacific Northwest, both are contemplative rather than didactic. I prefer Raymond's style somewhat. He writes clear, unaffected prose, even when he goes into a poetic vein.

The Year Of The Angler gives to the reader who has never fished there, like me, an appreciation for the Pacific Northwest and the steelhead for which the area is most renowned, and Raymond gives considerable attention to that species. But I was also interested in his chapters on lake fishing for Atlantic salmon (!), on shad fishing with a fly rod, and about the introduction to that area of Eastern brook trout.

Reading The Year is a restful experience, like watching a gentle river. And Raymond knows how to turn a phrase: to wit, "A fly tyer is an artist. The pelts of exotic birds and animals are his paints and the hook is his palette." 🐟



Fishing News

His propeller hooked on something, stalling his boat in a bay on the central Texas coast. The prop was tangled in an illegal net that was heavy with fish. A passing boater helped him free the 40 captive fish. The largest one was a ten-pound speck. He was in the right place at the right time that day. We'll reveal his name next month. 🐾

Jim Davis, Dave Hayward, and Gordon Hinds savored some fine Guadalupe action in mid-January. Lots of nice rainbows to 13 inches were landed and Jim caught one of those elusive browns, a red-spotted 12-incher. As might be expected, the two Orvisites, Davis and Hayward, fished fine and far off with light tippets and small nymphs.

Hinds, however, cast in close with a short, 20-pound leader tipped with a large, yellow fly. He perched atop the rocks like a big vulture and fished straight down. When asked why on earth Gordon fished in that fashion, our informant replied, "He's from New York." 🐾

Chris Phillips recently found a nine-pound bass with a one-pound bluegill in its craw. This was on Fayette County Lake. Chris says he thinks he can tie a fly to imitate a one-pound bluegill, but he's not sure he has the rod to cast it. 🐾

A contingent of TFFers, including Jim and Dee Darby, Earle Bolks, Ted Houghton & son, Roger and Helen Rowe, and Ed and Ruth Rizzolo, enjoyed a fine weekend of fishing the Guadalupe early in February. Although the lease was crowded, they all landed some bragging fish. Dee Darby was especially proud of her first fly-caught trout.

As John Hannah wrote last month, many people collect Izaak Walton's books. Some collect his tackle. Apparently, Ed Rizzolo has collected Izaak Walton's waders. He makes his wife, Ruth, wear them in the icy Guadalupe. 🐾

How'd you like to canoe a beautiful, clear stream, see lots of ducks, ospreys, and maybe a pair of eagles, but no people, houses or cars? Throw in some islands to explore and some high limestone cliffs, and, at no extra cost, an exercise program if the wind is from the south.

Brooks and Brian Bouldin and Ken and Paul Jacoby shared this fine experience on the Colorado River below Bastrop in mid-February. The fish were tempermental, but there are some heavy Kentucky spotted bass in this stretch, as Brian Bouldin and a white Dahlberg Diver proved. Ken Perkins at River Country in Bastrop can give you information, rent you a canoe, and pick you up at day's end. Call him at 512/321-4661. 🐾

Call Ken Jacoby with Fishing News at 409/273-2991 (h), or 713/999-6669 (o).

Since 1926 Frank Sawyer has been River Keeper on a six mile beat of the Fabled Avon River which is held by The Officers Fishing Association. When Sawyer took the position the rules of The Association forbade the use of anything other than dryflies. At that same time support was growing for the heresies espoused by G.E.M. Skues. Based upon observations Skues suggested that since a great proportion of the trout's diet consisted of subsurface aquatic life it was reasonable and proper for the Angler to imitate nymphal forms and develop the necessary methods of presentation.

Sawyer, being a keen observer of the insect fauna inhabiting his beat, was quick to accept these heresies as gospel. Through the ensuing years he developed several fly patterns imitating the nymphs indigenous to the waters under his control. The suggestive simplicity and effectiveness of these creations has been the key to their continued popularity in both England and abroad. The most popular of these is the Sawyer Pheasant Tail Nymph which is tied using fine copperwire in lieu of the usual tying thread. The wire provides weight without the use of lead wire, adds flash and when wrapped heavily to construct the thorax creates small pockets between the wire wraps which trap tiny bubbles resembling the air sacks which the pupa inflates in order to escape from its nymphal husk and emerge as an adult.

Here's how it's tied

- Hook: Mustad 3906 B sizes 12.14 or 16
- Thread: .006 diameter bright copperwire
- Tail, body & wing case: Cock pheasant center tailfeathers

Clamp hook in vice. Attach copperwire about 1/16" from eye and wrap evenly back to the bend of the hook then wind forward to the thorax area. Build up a thorax hump then wind wire back to the hook bend.

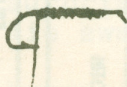
Select 4 to 6 fibers from the center tailfeathers of a ringneck cock pheasant. Even the tips and hold them on top of the hook so that the tips extend about 1/8" beyond the bend. Bind down with the wire then wrap the fibers around the wire counter clockwise as though you were attaching dubbing. Wind the wire and tailfibers forward to a point just behind the eye. Separate the fibers from the wire. Return the wire to a point just behind the thorax. Bend the fibers back to form the wing case and bind down. Secure with a couple of half hitches. You can repeat this last step one or two times to build up the wing case if desired. Put head cement on the wing case and voila - finis.

Two words of caution. Do not allow the wire to kink as it will weaken and break. When finishing off do not cut the wire but rather bend it back and forth so that when it breaks it will leave a tiny nub at the end of the wire which prevents the end from slipping through the half hitches.

STEP 1.



STEP 2.



STEP 3.



STEP 4.



STEP 5.



STEP 6.



CLIP FIBERS & HALF HITCH WIRE

L.O'H.

Loose Hooks

Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook has extracted a promise from Herb Penning that Herb's long-awaited secret fly will be revealed at next month's Fit To Be Tied. We'll believe it when we see it.

Many fly fishers consider the Atlantic salmon to be the ultimate fishing experience. TFFer Barkley Souders journeys to northern Quebec each year to the magnificent George River where he has some private water and two cabins. Barkely says it is a great trip and is surprisingly easy on the pocketbook. He has two spots open this year. He is going from September 27th to October 3rd. If you are interested, call him at 999-3791 (o), or 681-4960 (h), for details.

As we were going to press, we received word that Eliot Tucker, TFF past president, Wind Knots writer, and salt-water expert, has been elected to the board of directors of the Gulf Coast Conservation Assn. Our sincere congratulations to Eliot and to the GCCA.

RIZZOLO, ED, M.D.
7620 BELLFORT
HOUSTON, TX 77061

FIRST TEXAS CONCLAVE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

REGISTRATION: _____ SINGLE (\$20)
_____ FAMILY (\$30)
_____ STUDENT (\$15)

BANQUET: Number attending _____ @ \$18 each.

SUNDAY FISHING TRIP (indicate first & second choice)

_____ Trip 1: Upper Colorado _____ Trip 3: Fayette Res.

_____ Trip 2: Lower Colorado _____ Trip 4: Guadeloupe

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____
(make checks payable to 'The Texas Conclave')

Mail check and registration form to:

The Texas Conclave
P.O. Box 27141
Houston, Texas 77227-7141

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ HOUR _____ (AM or PM)

DEPARTURE DATE _____ HOUR _____ (AM or PM)

NUMBER OF ROOMS _____ FOR _____ NIGHTS.

Credit Card Authorization: authorizes ALL SEASONS Travel to charge accommodations to my credit card upon telephone approval of rates by me.

Signature _____ Date _____

Payment or signature must accompany this form

Mail to: ALL SEASONS TRAVEL
4550 Post Oak Place Drive, Suite 128
Houston, Texas 77027

CHECK HERE IF YOU WISH TO BE CONTACTED ABOUT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

