



WIND

KNOTS

February Meeting

Date: February 24, 1987

Place: Apollo Room
Viscount Hotel
2828 S. W. Freeway (Kirby Exit)

Time: 7:00...Fit To Be Tied
"The Red Squirrel Nymph"
7:30...Main Program
"Southwestern Arkansas,
Rainbows and Small-
mouths.".....Wendell Hise

January Meeting

A record, standing room crowd of 90 people, including 20 guests and nine new members, enjoyed John Hannah's display of antique reels and a Gary Borger videotape about New Zealand.

CASTING LESSONS

It made quite a picture from a distance. Massive sky-scrapers framed a patch of green grass covered with people flagelating the air with long whips. A closer look revealed the TFF Casting Clinic, held Sunday at the Lakes at Post Oak and attended by 34 casters who kept instructors Brooks Bouldin, Dave Hayward, and Morten Lovstad very busy.

A pleased Phil Staley reminds us that the next session will be at the same place on Sunday, March 8th, at 3:00 PM.



This event, to be held in Dallas at the Colony Park Hotel on March 20th, 21st, and 22nd, will feature so many fly-fishing superstars that we are afraid to mention them here for fear of leaving some out. The point is, mark your calendar now and make your reservations at the Colony Park Hotel. A special room rate of \$45.00 for either single or double is available.

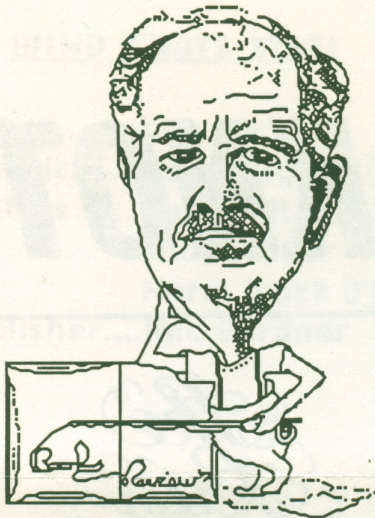
Do not miss the Texas Conclave!

CORRECTIONS

The Rick Wenland mentioned in last month's newsletter is actually Rick Wendland, the personable and efficient Orvisite.

The address for camera and VCR repair and equipment is 3001-C Fondren. That's Houston Camera Repair, Charlie Weems, proprietor.

The phone number for the Viscount Hotel is: 526-4571.



by John T. Hannah

THE FISHING HERE IS GREAT, By Derek Mills. Willow Books, London. (But distributed in the U. S.)

I have this thing about "how-to" fishing books. I don't like them, and I don't read them.

Now there are good things about how-to books. For example they provide income for a lot of nice people who write them and sell them. And I can hear some of you saying, "The reason he doesn't like how-to books is because he's too lazy to read them and they are causing a lot of his friends, who have thirty years' less experience than he does, to become better fishermen than he is." Or something like that was what you said.

But I'd rather think the reason for my objection is that such books (and tapes) deprive people of the pleasure and satisfaction of figuring things out for themselves. In The Fishing Here Is Great, novelist John Buchan is quoted: "The experienced angler, always provided that he has gained his knowledge by experience and not from books, is a companion fit for the gods." So I'm hoping eventually to blunder my way into becoming suitable for celestial companionship.

The best parts of this book were not written by the author. The best parts are quotations about fishing from the writing of many people. In addition to Buchan, Mills quotes Lord Byron, Zane

Grey, Jonathan Swift, Haig-Brown, Dame Juliana, Robert Louis Stevenson, and others. From Plutarch: fishing is "a filthy, base, illiberal employment, having neither wit nor perspicacity in it, nor worth the labour." How do you like them apples? And whether I approve or not, there are how-to tips from William Scrope: "Never go into the water deeper than the fifth button of your waistcoat... If wading in the month of February, pull down your stockings and examine your legs. Should they be black, or even purple, it might be well to get on dry land; but if they are only rubicund, you may continue to enjoy the water if it so pleases you."

I haven't yet mentioned what gives this book its title and makes it unique, which it really is unless there are other fishing books illustrated entirely with post cards. Mills has assembled 175 cards which picture fishing scenery and humor from different countries and which were published during the past century. He says that the cards make interesting statements about fishing in our culture.

Mills is a transplanted Canadian who now teaches fisheries management at Edinburgh University. With Neil Grassser he wrote The Salmon Rivers of Scotland.

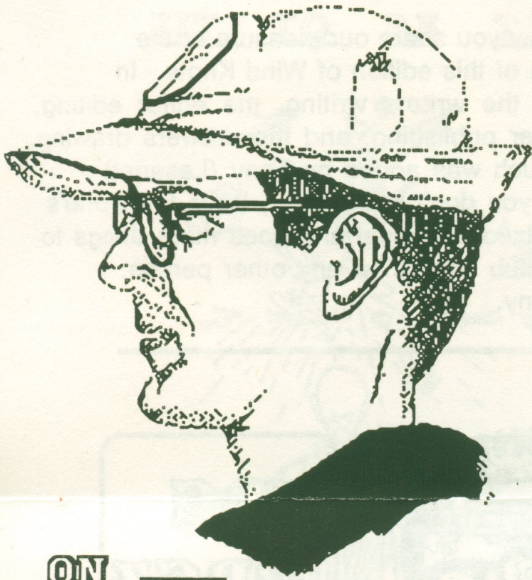
By the way, my prejudice against how-to books doesn't extend to "where-to" books. Or to fly-tying manuals. I would never be able to figure out by myself how to tie a Rat Faced McDougal.

FLY-TYING

Intermediate lessons will begin April 9th and will run the second Thursday of each month for six months. They are held in Room 010 at the church at 7:00 PM. Registration is not necessary. Ed Rizzolo is in charge.

New Members

A warm, TFF welcome is extended to **Mark Prasptick, Kenneth Plato, Floyd Schlett, Paul Akscyn, Jim Sims, Edward Mayo, Darrell Shaven, Paul Salmonsens, and Mark Roberts.**



ON THE SALTY SIDE

By Eliot Tucker

THE BOY SCOUT MOTTO

Success on the flats, whether here or at exotic locations, depends on things that you should do before you ever go saltwater flyfishing. Sharpen all your hooks until they catch when the point is pulled across your fingernail. Make sure you have the right size leader material, and that it has not deteriorated. Be sure you know how to tie all the knots you will need.

If you are going to use heavy mono shock tippets, i.e., 80-100 lb. test, heat the mono, stretch it until it breaks (if you can) and then cut it into proper lengths, leaving plenty of length for tying, and store it in a PVC tube.

Check all your reels to be sure you have released the drags. Lubricate all the drag washers (according to the manufacturer's instructions) and replace any worn washers. (You should be so lucky!) Be sure your fly line has no knicks in it. If you are going to east Bangladesh to fish, be sure you have a spare flyline.

Be sure your polarized glasses are top quality. This is a silly place to scrimp. It is not "saving

money" to by inexpensive glasses. You will be wasting part of the money you spend to travel to Bala-Bala (or Rockport, for that matter) if you fish with less than top quality glass lenses. If you wear glasses, get prescription polarized glasses.

How long has your backing been on the reel? Even if the only fish that has gotten into your backing has been in your imagination, it is a good idea and inexpensive to replace the backing every two years, more often if you have been lucky enough to have it stripped off the reel several times.

Get plenty of sunscreen, a good hat, and practice your casting. Put bandanas out on the lawn at 30, 50 and 70 feet and learn to hit them. Then learn to get close in a wind. Figure out how far 90 feet is, and try to cast that far. You probably will not need to, but if you can, maybe you will be able to cast 40 feet into a wind.

Reread Lefty Kreh's "Fly Fishing in Salt Water"

If you do not know how to double haul, forget all the above and stay home, or learn how before you go.



Fishing News

In the "Are We Talking About The Same Lake?" category, *Dave Hayward* and *Ted Houghton* came back with a terrible report on Fayette County Lake in early February, only to find an article complete with pictures in the next day's Houston Post extolling the red-hot Fayette County Lake. Wonder where H & H really went that day?

All of you, except Hayward and Houghton, call in your fishing news to Ken Jacoby at 409-273-2991 (h) or 713-873-6210 (o).

Aquatic Entomology

Put yourself in this picture. The sun is setting and small mayflies are popping to the surface in the broken water upstream. Rings of rising trout cover the river. You tie on a fly and cast. Five times. Ten times. You change flies. More casts. Still no takers. Darned fish! What do they want? Then it's dark. You stumble angrily back to camp.

Or, how about this. You use a little dip net to pick off a floating fly. You identify it, choose the proper artificial, cast carefully, see a swirl, and tighten up against the firm bulk of a good fish. You catch several more. Back at the lodge, you casually toss off a few latin words like Epeorus pleuralis or maybe Ephemerella subvaria. Your buddies are envious and a little uncomfortable.

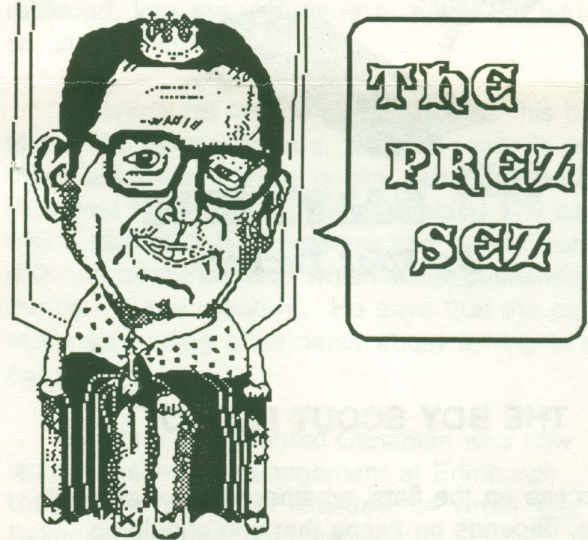
How do you get to the second category? Attend **Judy Lehberg's** Aquatic Entomology classes, beginning March 26th at 7:00 PM in Room 010 at St. John's Episcopal Church, River Oaks and Westheimer.

loose hooks

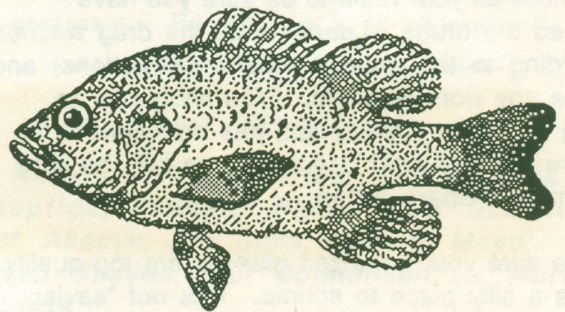
Spotted at the casting clinic was former club president, Jim Darby, whose schedule will now allow him to participate actively in the club once again.

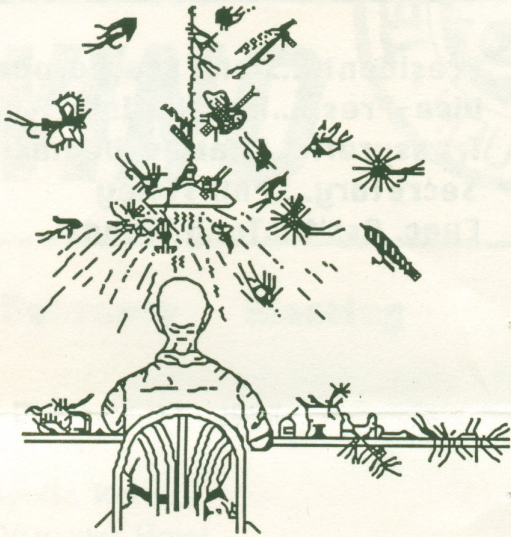
The new characatures this month are the work of Laurie Dailey.

We know you share our pleasure at the appearance of this edition of Wind Knots. In addition to the writers writing, the editor editing, the publisher publishing, and the drawers drawing, the final touch was added by Tony (Laserjet) Woods. If you don't know Tony, he is the world's most organized individual and does more things to make this club work than any other person. Thanks, Tony.



It won't be long until the most important day of the year for Texas Flyfishers, April 4th. That's the date for the **Sunfish Spectacular**, and I intend to win again in 1987, hopefully without the ugly controversy that marred my victory last year. Remember, I am the sole judge, so if you expect to be treated fairly, don't show up!!



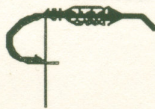
FIT TO BE TYEDHISE RED SQUIRREL

If you are a faithful reader of Wind Knots you are already aware that the guest speaker for our February Meeting is **Wendell Hise**. In addition to guiding in southwest Arkansas, Wendell is an avid supporter of fly fishing and of the Federation, and is a notable tier. One of his creatures he modestly calls the "Hise Red Squirrel", which he uses on trout, crappie and bluegills. He ties a larger version for smallmouth bass. This scribe and certain friends, however, can attest to this fly's capabilities when it comes to bream and largemouth bass.

Material needs for tying this fly are minimal. Hook, Mustad size 10 either 98480 or 3906-B, .020 lead wire, red squirrel skin including the tail, and dark brown monocord. With these goodies in hand let's see what this bug will look like.



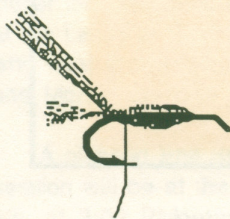
1. Wrap shank with 8 to 10 turns of .020 lead wire.



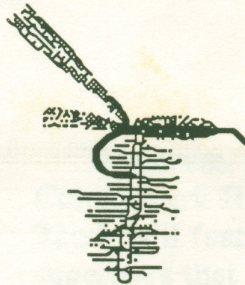
2. Attach monocord behind lead wire and build shoulder. Then work thread forward. Build shoulder in front of lead.



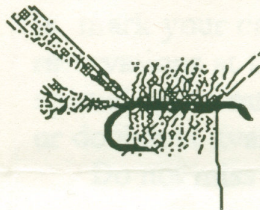
3. Return thread to rear of hook. Tie in small clump of reddish flank hair for tail.



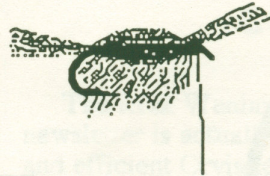
4. From the squirrel's tail, clip a small clump of hairs. Tie them in by the tip.



5. Form a dubbing loop with the tying thread. Insert only the guard hairs clipped from the squirrel skin into the loop.



6. Wrap the spun guard hairs forward to a point about 2 eye diameters from the front of the hook. Tie off loop.



7. Grasp the tail hairs and bring them forward to form wing case after you have clipped off the hairs on top of the body. Secure the tail hairs.



8. Clip off the butts, cement well, and whip-finish the head. Then cement again. Squirrel tail hair is slick!

**WIND KNOTS is the Newsletter of The Texas Flyfishers - Houston, Texas
An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers**

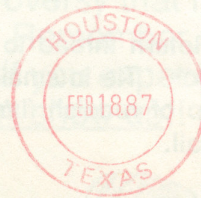
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