

# WIND KNOTS

FEBRUARY 1989

## February Meeting

DATE .... February 28, 1989

PLACE .. The Apollo Room  
The Travelodge Tower  
2828 S.W. Fwy. (Kirby Exit)

TIME ... 7:00 FIT TO BE TYED  
"Car Top Caddis"

7:30 MAIN PROGRAM  
Bryan O'Keefe, "Fly  
Fishing in Alaska"

## January Meeting

A fine crowd of 108 people jammed the room for the January meeting, with Wright Guthrie at the helm. The main order of business was a discussion about the importance of our club's annual auction, to be held at Bavarian Gardens on March 4th from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The main program featured San Antonian Jim Kuper, who spoke about spring fishing for Brookies in Manitoba. A good time was had by all.

## Club Auction

On March 4th, 1989 our annual TFF Auction will be held from 11:00 A. M. until 5:00 P. M. at Bavarian Gardens, 3926 Feagan (one block off Waugh & Memorial Dr.). This event is our club's most important function. It raises most of the money needed to provide the excellent programs, outings, classes and activities sponsored by TFF. **WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS AND YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE AUCTION.**

Bring your donations to the February 28th club meeting or drop them off by February 28th at one of the following locations:

Orvis, 5848 Westheimer

Houston Camera Repair,  
3001 Fondren

Anglers Edge, 6360 Richmond

Contex, 817 N. Frazier, Conroe

Sabel Electronics, 143 Cypress-  
wood at I-45, Spring

Then, drop yourself off at Bavarian Gardens on March 4th. You won't want to miss the fun, fellowship, food, drink, and bargains. We guarantee you a great time.

*Lee Pinion*  
Auction Chairman

## Fishing News

January is traditionally a slow month for fishing news. Oh sure, Jerry Derryberry has been catching pike to 40 inches on rainbow-patterned streamers in New Mexico's Rio Grande River, and Ed Rizzolo, Gary Shepherd, and Charlie Thanhieser are knocking them dead (only a figure of speech) on the Guadalupe, and Jim Bridges is scoring well at Valley Lodge between cold fronts -- but those items are what you'd expect and don't qualify as newsworthy. To fill this space we thought we'd look back into the past seven years and rerun some of our favorite fishing news stories (some of which were printed and others of which were censored out).

### BELIZE OR BUST (December 1987)

Temp Deaver and Rod Gardner have a funny feeling about their most recent trip to Belize, arranged by Brooks Bouldin. They took off from Hobby in a heavy fog, seemed to circle for two hours, and landed on a dirt strip cut through a pine forest. The place looked suspiciously like Lake Livingston. Their uneasiness was not erased by the fact that the cook prepared collard greens for each meal - nor by Brooks's announcement that the

*Continued on page 2*

## LOOSE HOOKS

# Captain Corey's Comments

by: **Corey Rich**

Not all of the best catches are made with fishing tackle. Ray Brauer landed a beauty on November 5th when he married a lovely lady named Bonnie. Our best wishes and congratulations go to the good doctor and his bride.

We can't find it in our notes (which grow cold quickly) but we seem to remember that Bob Cuyler told us at the club meeting that he is a proud new father. Congratulations, Bob, and if we've got this story wrong, congratulations anyway.

The Editor

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### Fishing News (cont'd.)

bonefish and permit were not hitting well, but the crappie fishing was excellent.

#### AS THE TWIG IS BENT (March 1986)

Ralph Hutzler's defense when questioned about his frequent fishing trips to salt-water piers is that not all members of his family are fly fishers. This was confirmed recently when the Hutzler family was observed on the 61st Street Pier in Galveston. Gail and the two girls were casting beautiful loops with their fly rods, while Ralph was soaking a squid with his Zebco.

#### MATCHING THE HATCH (November 1985)

Ed Rizzolo, who took 5,000 flies to Montana last year only to find them all too large, made sure he had a selection of sizes 10 to 22

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I keep a journal of my outdoor activities. The writing of it allows me to distill the highlights. The reading allows me to reflect and remember. The end of the year is a good time for reflection. I'd like to share a few of the entries from the past couple of years.

Oct. 18, 1986, Port O'Connor (POC). "Fred Carr & I went out to survey the damage done by the red tide. Things look bad. We didn't see a sign of life in the water, and fish are stacked up on the shoreline like cord wood... On a more cheerful note, the white pelicans are back in force. Wonder where they spend their summer vacations?"

Nov. 1, 1986, POC. "...Back at the dock we ran into a drunk front in the form of wildlife artist Al Barnes. Barnes and his buddy were sailing from Rockport to Florida. It had already taken three days to get from Rockport to POC. We took them back to Fred's for gumbo and drinks, then back to Al's boat for more drinks. Al and Fred listened to 1940's music below. Pinky and I mooned them through various portholes. Al fell overboard as we were leaving."

Apr. 18-20, 1987, POC. "Fished Twin Lakes Sat. a.m. No fish, but there was a bright spot: Pinky fished naked... There were about 50 porpoises in Espiritu Santo Bay so we stopped for an hour to play with them."

Oct. 17, 1987, POC. "...At Whitaker Flats w/fly rod saw several redfish with their shoulders out of the water. Got jelly arm and could hardly cast. Had 3 strikes and missed all..."

Nov. 21, 1987, POC. "Catching a redfish on a fly rod in mid-calf deep water on a sunny November

day is what it's all about. The 24-inch fell for a slender char-treuse popper..."

Dec. 5, 1987, POC. "I've said I'd rather catch a couple on a fly rod than a bunch on regular tackle, but the concept gets stretched pretty thin when I don't catch ANY and people around me are catching BUNCHES..."

Mar. 6, 1988, San Antonio. " I waded for bass w/my newly built fly rod, a 9 x 9 on a J. Kennedy Fisher blank. Caught and released two bass. The larger was 3 1/4# on the De-Liar, caught on a "Fuzzy Purple Sumbitch" pattern I invented... Rex stepped off the side of his little boat in 8 feet of water and floated his hat."

Apr. 16, 1988, Simonton. "Fished the Texas Flyfishers annual Sunfish Spectacular AND I WON! Caught a 9 7/8" green sunfish on a [CENSORED] on the little bamboo rod that was Pop's, just before I broke it... The trophy I get to keep is a little dried up piranha nailed to a block of wood. What glory!"

May 15, 1988, POC. "...Crossing about a 5' flat we found a pod of 7 porpoises who wanted to play. Water crystal clear. They stayed 20 minutes, swimming under and along side the boat. Could have touched them if the bow rail weren't in the way. When we started to leave they did some nice aerial work, coming all the way out of the water 2 at a time..."

## On The Salty Side



by: *Eliot Tucker*

### Saltwater Dreams

Outside the Pueblo, Colorado airport where I am waiting for a weather delayed airplane, it is fourteen below zero. The nearest saltwater is far away. Bored, it is easy to dream up trips not yet taken. Venezuela is my current dream of choice. Most widely publicized is Los Rocques, Venezuela's offshore island national park, a new bonefish hot spot. The brochures claim it has more and bigger bones than Christmas Island. Whether that is true or not, it is certainly a lot closer.

One source tells me that accommodations, boats and guides at Los Rocques are abysmal. It seems the Venezuelan government is not willing to commit to leaving the fishery open. I am told that no private entrepreneur has been willing to make the investment to provide a first class operation without assurance that the government will not close the fishery. My source is, notoriously unreliable, yet occasionally correct. Check for yourself before committing your time and money.

The other Venezuelan draw is small tarpon in lagoons and estuaries. These small tarpon are plentiful and feisty. Thirty to fifty hook-ups per day are said to be common. The catch is the logistics of getting there. This trip involves flying to Caracas, staying there overnight, and then endur-

ing a long car ride to the camp the second day. The same day and a half is required on departure. This camp is supposedly well run and the fishing is reportedly first rate.

Those are not lake tarpon but saltwater-going young of the big boys. I mention this because a new lake tarpon spot is being opened by Dial Duncan in the Yucatan. Duncan has hacked his way into some never-before-fished brackish lakes filled with tarpon. It sounds fabulous and so is the price, fabulously high.

As a caveat, my only experience with lake tarpon was on Little Cayman Island where the fish were plentiful, willing and fun, but a lot more like super-charged bass than ocean-going tarpon of the same size. The lake tarpon did not run as far or as fast or jump as high or as often as baby tarpon I have harassed in the Florida Keys. My non-authoritative theory is that the absence of predators, tides and currents in the lakes creates couch-potato tarpon, weak sisters to their iron-pumping ocean kin.

You pays you money and you takes you choice.

## Fly-tying and Entomology Classes

Ed Rizzolo reminds us that the year's first Entomology Class will be held on Thursday, March 9th at 7:30 at St. John's Church in room 010. The subject will be a video on the "Super Hatches." Entomology is fun and it will help you take more and better fish.

The Intermediate Tying Classes will run the second Thursday of each month, beginning on April 13th. No need to register. Just come to St. John's Church at 7:30 and enjoy.

One of Dr. Rizzolo's special programs will take place on Saturday, April 15th from 8:30 to 5:00. It is the Advanced Classic Salmon Fly Class, to be taught by one of America's best tiers, Judy Lehmborg. No other club can match this class, because there is only one Judy Lehmborg. After the class, attendees will go to Pino's Restaurant for a superb dinner. You must register with Ed to attend this class and the dinner. There is tremendous interest in this event, so to secure your spot or to ask questions, call Ed now at 643-5775 (o) or 997-2789 (h). He will give you complete details.

## THE PREZ SEZ

I'd like to encourage every member of this club to get involved with the workings of this great organization. Believe me, there is something important for each of us to do. And the good thing is that you can pick your area of effort from a wide variety of fly fishing functions. If you want to get more involved in TFF, give me a call and let's discuss it.

## Book Reviews



by: **John Hannah**

GREEN HIGHLANDERS AND PINK LADIES, by Dana S. Lamb. Barre Publishers.

I don't know why Dana Lamb just didn't write his book in verse form.

The clover where the rabbits graze  
Is Dartmouth  
green  
Beneath the sprouting maple leaves  
Of paler hue

After all this slim volume, which is full of passages like that, IS a book of poetry.

But, instead, he used the prose form throughout. I suppose that he was worried that if he had published the book as obvious poetry, he would have been perceived as a sissy. As poets sometimes are unless their poems begin, "A bunch of the boys were whooping it up..." or "There once was a girl from Waukegan..."

Lamb's dwelling on rabbits and faerie birdsong and woodland brooks is just his way of saying that he likes being in the places where he fishes and hunts.

Actually, the story that gives the book its title is an almost-bawdy tale about a Green Highlander who, it was thought, entertained pink ladies in his hotel

room.

The club (read: John Scarborough) presented me with an autographed, limited-edition copy of this classic. I'm proud to have it on my shelf, and it seems appropriate that I should write about the gift, and the book, in *WIND KNOTS*.

GH&PL is a collection of some thirty sketches, anecdotes, and mood pieces about the field sports, most written in this restful cadence of Lamb's. "Mood" is the operative word here. One of the best chapters is one depicting the mood of anticipation: "The Time of Pretty Soon."

The stories are bracketed between a prologue and an epilogue which illustrate man's senseless and cruel acts of bravado. The prologue tells of a colonial soldier who wiped out an Indian village and was rewarded by having a river named for him. The epilogue is a story of a crowd cheering the bludgeoning of a harmless snake.

Lamb says that some things in nature are so beautiful that even the best poets can't do them justice. Perhaps. But Lamb gave it his best shot.

I was ambivalent about the piece; on one hand, how nice to stock this park so that many of the uninitiated could experience the pull of a trout for the first time. On the other, perhaps without the support and activities of the FFF, would many of our streams become nothing more than put and take water - relegated to frequent stocking to accommodate us conservation types?

No doubt TPW wants to introduce many types of outdoor experiences to hunters and anglers, and well they should, but is this a warning of the future if each of us fails to support conservation and preservation issues head on? The strength of the Federation lies in its membership all supporting the same goals with a loud, powerful voice. We want to be sure that there will be native species to catch and release for generations to come. Make your voice heard. Join the FFF now!

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## The Federation

by: **Herb Penning**

I was watching the evening news and one segment was devoted to a park in Missouri City that has been stocked for the first time with rainbows - 2,000 of them. The reporter began to interview fishermen on techniques of trout fishing. There were the usual assortment of Nibbler Corn and mashmallow types mixed in with worm dunkers and lure chunkers - a goodly number of each, it seemed.

# Fit To Be Tied



by:

**Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook**

## Car Top Caddis

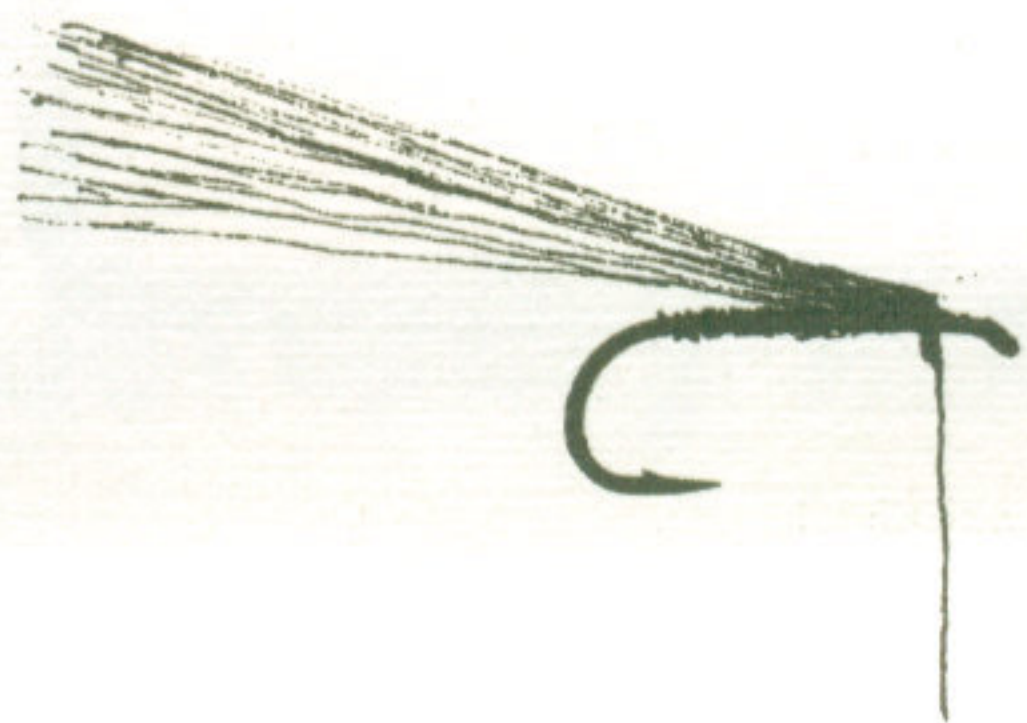
The topic of today's discussion is so dreadfully simple that I'm suprised no one has produced it before. It's the brainchild of a staunch Federator, a great fly tyer and innovator, an outstanding teacher, the originator of the "Phrozen Phantom Phly Plate", and a heluva nice guy to know and be with. If you haven't guessed already, this creator is none other than Dárwin Atkin.

Make no mistake, this is a trout fly, but you may want to give it a fling on bream. I must confess that I tried it over the Christmas holidays on one of my favorite northern California streams, however the only thing hatching between heavy, cold rain showers and sodden snow flakes was a few blue wing olives (blue from the cold, no doubt) of micron dimensions. These crazy creatures lacked the sense to stay on the warm, cozy stream bottom. No trout rose to either these ephemeral creatures or that tied and offered by mine own hand. Unfortunately this was neither a fair nor reasonable test of the fly's catching capabilities, but I am told by those who have tried it that it works very well, so let's tie some up and give them a real try.

You'll need a fine wire hook is sizes 12 through 22. Mustad 94833 is O.K. for the larger sizes but from 18 through 22, use 94852. The turned-up eye does not diminish the gape as does the turned-down eye. Try Tiemco TM-100, they're good. Next you'll need natural dun deer or elk body hair and 6/0 olive tying thread. Simple, no? Wait 'til you start tying. It's even simpler.



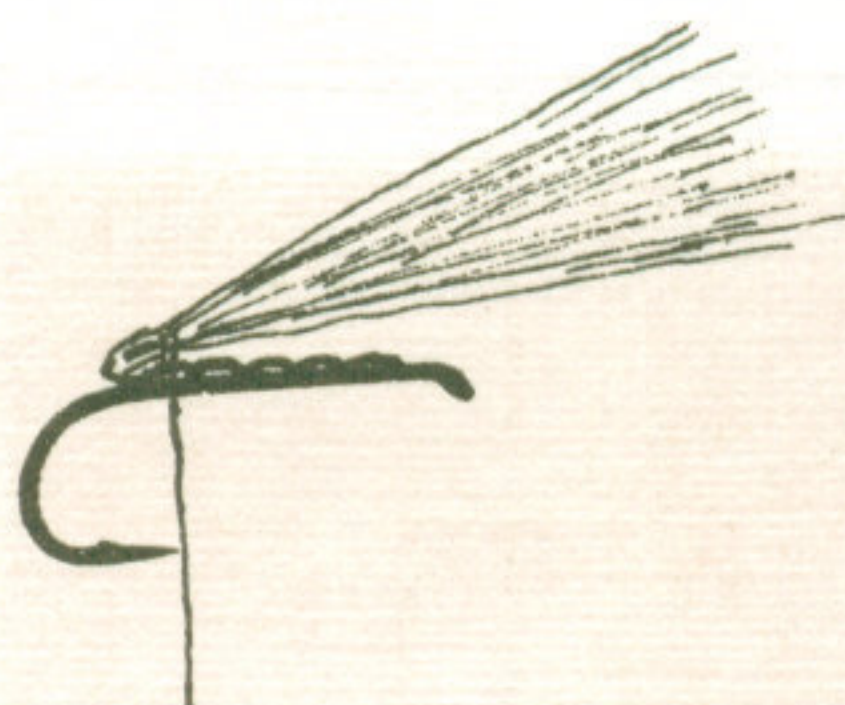
1. Attach thread to shank at a point between hook point and barb. Wind thread forward evenly to within one eye diameter of the eye. Here you want to throw on a half hitch.



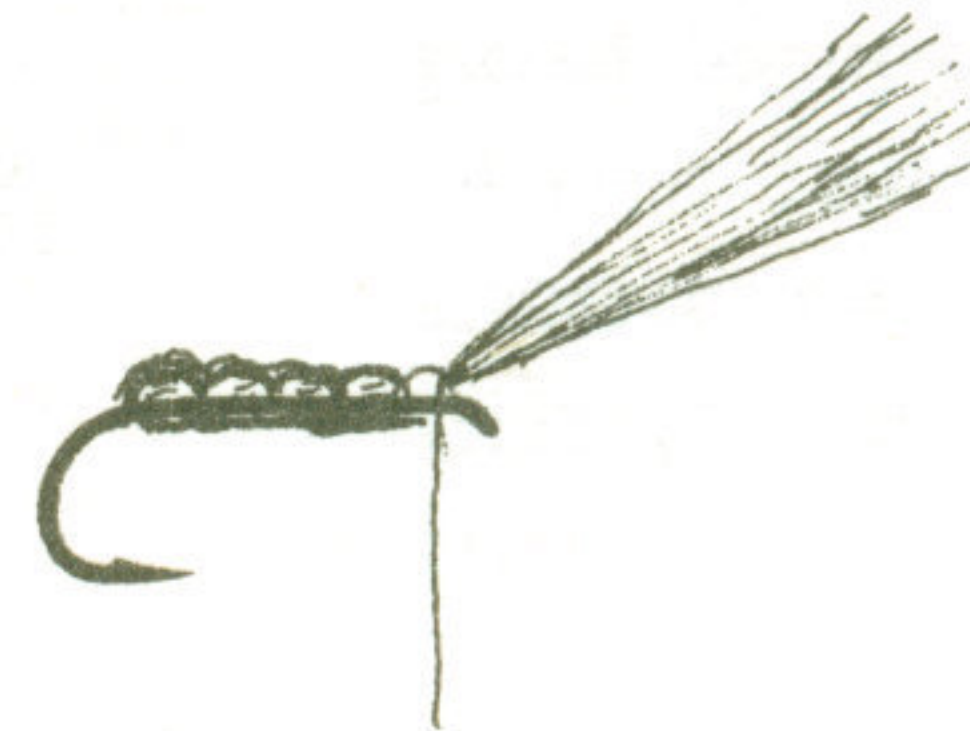
2. Clip a small clump of deer or elk body hair from the hide. Clean it of short hair and under-fur. Stack it to make the tips even. Carefully trim the butts so the hair will be slightly longer than 3 times the hook length - measured from behind the eye to the beginning of the hook bend. Tie in the stacked hair one eye diameter behind the eye. Don't allow more than 1/32" of the butts to extend beyond the tie-down point.



3. Stroke the hair back along the top of the hook. Then wind the thread in a tight, close spiral to a point just over the barb. Take an extra turn or two then go forward to a point over the hook point.



4. Stroke the hair forward on top of the hook. Then, bind it down tightly above the point of the hook. If the hair isn't bound down tightly it will have a tendency to roll around the hook shank.



5. In a wide tight spiral continue to bind down the hair until you reach the back of the eye. This will produce a segmented look to the body. Then back the thread to the original starting point.



6. Again, stroke the hackle back and tie it down securely with three or four turns of the tying thread. Whip finish with four turns of the tying thread and tie off. Finish with thinned-down Bug Glaze.

Easy, wasn't it? Fish it as you would any of the other caddis patterns. It will float in the surface film of the water resembling more closely a caddis sitting on the water.

Don't take no "stuff" from your material!

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

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**TFF EVENTS CALENDAR**

<u>WHEN &amp; WHO</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
February 28 - 7:00 p.m. <i>Bryan O'Keefe</i>	Club Meeting "Fly Fishing in Alaska"	The Travelodge Tower
March 4 - 11a.m. - 5 p.m.	Club Auction	Bavarian Gardens Rest. 3926 Feagan
March 9 - 7:30 p.m.	Entomology Class Video: "Super Hatches"	St. John's Church
March 18	Bass Fishing Outing	T. B. A.
March 28 - 7:00 p.m. <i>Jimmy Nix</i>	Club Meeting T. B. A.	The Travelodge Tower
April 7,8,9	Llano River Outing	T.B.A.
April 13 - 7:30 p.m.	Intermediate Flytying	St. John's Church
April 15 - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. <i>Judy Lehmborg</i>	Advanced Classic Salmon Fly Class	T.B.A.
April 22	Sunfish Spectacular	T.B.A.

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Address correction requested