

WIND KNOTS

JANUARY 1987

January Meeting

DATE January 26, 1987

PLACE .. The Apollo Room
Viscount Hotel
2828 S.W. Fwy. (Kirby Exit)

TIME ... 7:00 **FIT TO BE TYED**
"Fledermouse"

7:30 **MAIN PROGRAM**
John Hannah and
Roger Anderson
"Silver Creek, Idaho"

November Meeting

John Scarborough presided over a meeting attended by 75 people. Business was conducted, and several fishing videos were shown. Each member was encouraged to begin accumulating fly-fishing material, new or used, for donation to the club auction to be held on March 5th, 1988.

Paul Akscyn asked for several more workers for his outings committee, so call him if you are willing to help.

Norm Crook and Ken Jacoby were named as a nominating committee for the election of club officers, to be held in June. If you wish to run, contact them.

The Federation

by: *Herb Penning*

At this time of year as we clean up our fishing equipment, memories of streams fished, trips taken and companionship race through our brain. Can we forget that trout caught out west during the stonefly hatch - how bravely it fought before being landed and released? Or the camaraderie at the cabin after a successful day on a stream or lake?

These memories cannot be forgotten, but without the Federation we might have little to remember. At this time of the year if you haven't joined the Federation, give a holiday gift to yourself and the fly-fishing fraternity at large. **Join the Federation.** Send your check for \$20.00 to the club's address. You'll be glad you did.

Back Casts

Correction

Last month we asked each member who expected to attend the fly-tying class to bring a vice to class with him. So one person brought gluttony, another sloth, and another brought along a fondness for worms. Actually, what we wanted was for each class member to bring a vise, and to leave his vices at home.

*John T. Hannah WIND KNOTS
October 26, 1977*

Club Auction

Our club's most important event of the year will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **March 5th, 1988** at the **Bavarian Gardens Restaurant**, 3926 Feagan (between Shepherd and Waugh Drive north of Memorial Drive). A buffet lunch will be available at \$9 per person and there will be *free beer*. Begin now to select new or used fly-fishing material or equipment for donation, but first go and circle the date on your calendar this very minute because make no mistake about it, you will want to attend. *Or else.*

We don't want to make this sound like a trip to the dentist, because the auction is first and foremost a place for fun and fellowship. And a chance to pick up some bargains (your editor made the buy of a lifetime several years ago on a camera donated by Charlie Weems). In addition to the fun, the auction is the vital financial factor in your club's being able to function as it does.

Auction items can be dropped off at Houston Camera Repair or Orvis. To get everyone in the spirit, at the next two club meetings there will be an auction of a few items: Judy Lehmborg flies and a reel in January, and Royce Dam flies and a rod in February. **The club auction - get the spirit!**

Fishing News

Ray Brauer and Keenan Winne got more than they paid for from the fishing trip they purchased in the silent auction at the recent Rockport Tournament. Oh sure, they caught some beautiful trout and reds on dark purple streamers while fishing the flats,

TEXAS FLYFISHERS - HOUSTON, TEXAS

Fishing News (cont'd)

and one big red took Ray into the backing three times. But fishing success is expected from these two guys. The dividend they received was the kindness and friendship given by their host, Ken Calloway, who welcomed them to his home, served them breakfast, and treated them like family.

* * * * *

Pat Patterson, as usual, spent the month of October in Colorado, catching trout and kokanee from several streams, but mostly from his favorite East River near Gunnison. Pat says he likes being there in autumn because the tourists with their screaming kids are gone and the fishing is done by "old codgers" like him. Pat is one old codger who can really catch fish.

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In the "You Shoulda Been Here Next Week" department, Ray Brauer gives us an update on *El Nino*, the warm Peruvian current that spoiled his Alaskan salmon fishing trip this summer. It seems that *El Nino* only postponed the return of the salmon, and shortly after the good doctor returned to Houston the silvers crowded the rivers and produced fantastic fishing.

* * * * *

We are saddened to report that the Fearless Leader apparently has recruited a partner in heresy, the otherwise respectable Tom Parris. Both caught big bass from Fayette County Lake on a November outing - but their methodology was most unsatisfactory, if you know what we mean. They will appear before the Grand Inquisitor, Charles Thanheiser, in January and will be required to wear the scarlet letter "S" on their fishing vests.

* * * * *

Another candidate for the scarlet letter is Lee Pinion, who reportedly

used a funny-looking rod and reel to land a large bass at the December outing to Fayette. Fortunately, Barkley Souders, Ken Newman, Steve Wright, Bob Reis, Clark Conner, and Mark Hollier upheld the proper tradition.

* * * * *

The raw wind whipped Florida's Lake Kissimmee into a froth, killing all thoughts of fly fishing on the big water and putting a long face on Rod Gardner.

"All right, Gardner, you can stop sulking," said the host. "I'll take you to a private lake tomorrow and let you catch and release one fish, but only one. And incidentally, there's a bass there that goes over 13 pounds."

Next morning, Rod's fingers shook a bit as he clinched the Mitch Whitney-tied Shiner imitation to his stout leader. Nothing happened on the first three casts, but on the fourth there was a green and gold flash and our publisher's nine-weight Lovstad rod was bent double by the surge of a big, angry Florida bass.

Mixed with the exhilaration of the battle was a slight feeling of disappointment. This was not a 13-pounder. More like six pounds. Then the fish hit shallow water, got a look at Rod, and made a long, straight, nonsense run to the depths, the line burning the skin off the angler's hand in the process. Some time later the bass was netted, placed on the scales (nine and a-half pounds) and carefully released. Are we to believe that the blase' Mr. Gardner takes a six pound bass in stride? He does when he's in Florida. But not a nine-pounder. He still gets excited about a nine-pounder.

Call in your fishing news to Ken Jacoby at 409-273-2991 (h) or 873-6210 (o). Don't wait till you catch a nine pound bass to call.

Tying Tips

by: Mitch Whitney

This month's tip comes from the nationally-known tier, Judy Lehmborg. Judy has tied at many conclaves, and is famous for her salmon flies.

If you are trying to minimize the number of wraps you make with your tying thread, try the following method to add material to the fly. With your tying thread positioned where the new material is to be added, slide the new material under the tying thread (between the tying thread and the hook) and then make one or two more wraps. This trick not only minimizes the number of wraps, it also allows you to position the material exactly where you want it.

Judy Lehmborg

LOOSE HOOKS

One of the real pleasures at club meetings is to welcome back old members who have been missing for months. This happened in November when Harvey Wechsler, our resident expert on the White and North Fork Rivers in Arkansas, returned to the fold. Harvey, a violinist with the Houston Symphony, has promised to mend his ways.

One of the most respected members of this club, Charlie Weems, has sent us some material which promotes a seminar to be held in February at which, "You'll learn how to get the most out of downriggers, fishing live bait, kites, party boats, chumming, bottom fishing and deep jigging." Charlie asks us, "What do you think?" Well Charlie, we think about your favorite bluegill fly (*WIND KNOTS, May, 1986*). You remember, the one where you grind a pint of nightcrawlers in a blender, add dubbing material and refrigerate overnight, then tie the dubbing material on the hook and use as soon as possible.

Outings chairman Paul Akscyn recommends that members interested in getting



On The Salty Side

by Eliot Tucker

Tarpon Time

Tarpon time in Florida is the most thrilling saltwater fly-fishing I know. It begins in March at Homasasa Springs on the Gulf Coast and runs through June in the lower keys. The fly rods and lines are huge, the hooks are giant and the fish are, in the immortal words of Madonna, "Totally Awesome!" Of course, she was referring to something else that was surprisingly large.

The whole experience is totally awesome. Your very senses are challenged. The colors of the water are awesome. The power of the tarpon is awesome. The sharks that you see on the flats define awesomeness.

The skills required to catch these fish are awesome also. Long, and even more importantly, accurate casts are usually needed and always useful. Seeing tarpon over white spots is easy but keeping your cool when you do is not. Seeing fish over the dark turtle grass bottoms in the back country is never easy, even with excellent polarized glasses and practice.

Stripping the fly so that it intersects the eating end of a tarpon while keeping the fly moving at the steady undulating pace tarpon find so tasty takes a lot of practice.

Sinking the hook into the inside of a very hard mouth is at times impossible. Clearing the line from the deck and the things it is always wrapped around is more a matter of luck than skill, as far as I can tell.

Playing a fish as large as most tarpon is something most of us have very little experience doing. Putting real pressure on a big fish is something you can do with a big fly rod, but it is a skill that has to be learned from experience and even from coaching.

The only way to learn all this is go to Florida and do it. Call early for a guide; they book up quickly. You will never find more challenging or more rewarding saltwater fly-fishing.

LOOSE HOOKS (cont'd)

information on Texas areas call his counterpart in other clubs. These are:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dallas | Bill Lindsey
817-460-1560 (h) |
| San Antonio | Dr. Charles Miims
512-493-1520 (h) |
| Conroe | Hank Bauerlein
409-539-2559 (h) |
| Austin | Jim Adams
512-472-4553 (w) |

Early news from the nominating committee. Temp Deaver says he is willing to serve another term as club treasurer, because he wants to go to Belize again next year.

We are certain that you share our pleasure at the new look of *WIND KNOTS*, which comes from our new software package plus the talent and effort of Rod Gardner. If you like it, let Rod know you appreciate the hours he puts in

In the consumer protection depart-

ment, the rumor is out that Tony Woods intends to place his infamous "sewing machine" vise in the club auction. Let the buyer beware.

We hope you caught the Letter to the Editor written by one John T. Hannah in the current *ROD & REEL* magazine.

This is our fifth year as editor and we have never put out an edition of *WIND KNOTS* without Brooks Bouldin's name being in it.

If you'd like to go to Boykin Springs, a pleasant east-Texas rainbow trout sojourn near Lake Sam Rayburn, call Barkley Souders at 370-9491 (h) or 999-3791 (o). Barkley will give you the details and he may just go along with you.

This is the time of year that fly fishers make plans and dream dreams. If you are interested in hearing all details plus seeing video information on two great trips, call Dan Edwards at 409-273-4602. One trip, taken by Dan himself, is to a remote part of Chile where the trout fishing is fantastic. The other trip is to southern Alaska, where many steelhead are caught from the mouths of rivers while living in solid comfort on a yacht. These are two offbeat and excellent adventures.

DON'T FORGET 11
THE TFF AUCTION
MARCH 5, 1988

Norm Thompson

We are saddened to learn that Norm Thompson passed away suddenly in December. After many years as a member of TFF, Norm moved to the state of Washington in 1983. He was active in the local Trout Unlimited chapter there, enjoyed the wonderful fishing opportunities in his new area, and kept in touch with Bill Baker and Ed Rizzolo.

Norm was a wonderful fly tier and a knowledgeable fisherman. He was a gentleman of the old school, and we can remember our pleasure when he sent word through Ed that he looked forward to each copy of *WIND KNOTS* so that he could keep up with his Houston friends. His many friends will miss him.



by

John Hannah

BOOKS

For some time I've been wanting to write about Paul Schullery's American Fly Fishing, A History, because everybody else has. But I haven't yet finished it. It's a book of daunting proportions and you can't just skim through it in one sitting like you can, say, War and Peace. But I'll stick with it.

A book that can be digested in one sitting, with pleasure, is Muriel Foster's Fishing Diary, which was loaned to me by George Ayres. Muriel Foster was an English maiden lady who liked to fish and who recorded each of her 2,571 catches, made over 34 years. Her talents as a naturalist artist surpassed her talents as an angler. She decorated her diary with beautiful drawings of fish and other animals and of landscapes from the streams and lakes that she fished. Particularly nice are her pictures of flies and lures. Much of her fishing was done in Scotland -- the publication of this diary made famous an obscure Highland spate river named Dundonnell -- but the diary also covers her angling in England and Ireland.

Another thin volume, also a classic, is Odell Shepard's Thy

Rod and Thy Creel which has recently been reprinted in paperback. John Scarborough presented me with a copy. Except for its unfortunate title, which along with the author's name brings up misleading Psalmic images, the book is pure pleasure. Arnold Gingrich said that he knew of no one since Walton who has written about angling more beautifully. Example: Shepard describes well-presented flies settling "gently as the eyelashes of a child that is falling asleep." This reprint is another production from Nick Lyons Books which has turned out a bunch of fishing literature recently, including Schullery's history.

It's possible that John Hersey isn't waiting by his mail slot to learn this, but he has won the Wind Knots' Award for the Best Fishing Book of 1987; viz., Blues. The selection was made in the usual TFF democratic fashion: by me.



by

John Scarborough

THE
PREZ
SEZ

Here is my recipe for TFF Tuna Dip.

- 1) *One can of white chunk tuna in spring water;*
- 2) *Three generous tablespoons of picante sauce (Red River);*
- 3) *One and one-half tablespoons of light mayonnaise.*

Mix well, serve on anything, enjoy.

Want Ads

Lee Pinion wants to buy a used canoe that will hold two persons and is in decent shape. He is looking to spend around \$200.00. Call him at work at 953-9999.

Gene Doggett has an outfit for sale in that popular 9 foot for 8/9 weight size. The rod is a Kennedy Fisher and the reel is an Orvis Presentation V (fresh and saltwater) model. Two lines, floating and shooting, are included. The price is \$400.00, about \$100.00 below cost. Call Gene at 783-8523 (h).

Morten Lovstad has a 14' Alumacraft, semi-V boat on a McClain trailer for sale. It has a 1982 Evinrude 15hp motor with two tanks, front and rear casting decks and a front-mounted trolling motor with battery. All are in excellent condition. The price is \$1200 - without motor \$600. Call Morten at 556-3509 (w) or 363-4244 (h).

Outings

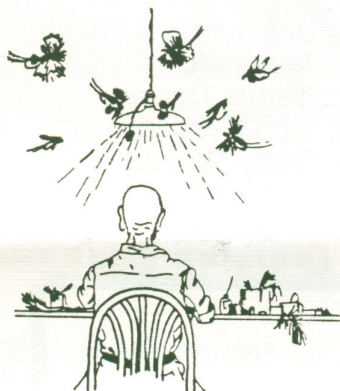
Paul Akscyn announces a joint outing with the Dallas and San Antonio clubs to be held at Bean's Camp on the Guadalupe on Saturday, February 6th. Paul will have maps and instructions available at the January club meeting, or you can call him at 683-6988 (h) or 484-2531 (o).

Fly-tying and Entomology

The first of seven weekly beginners tying classes was held on Thursday, January 14th at St. John's Episcopal Church. As always, Ed Rizzolo had an overflow class of eager learners. Ed says that he could use some experienced tiers to come along and assist with individual instructions. If you can help, show up in room 010 at 7:00 on Thursday.

The next entomology class, also given by Ed Rizzolo, will be conducted at the church on March 10th at 7:00. The subject will be stoneflies. Knowledge is power, and that is the idea of these entomology classes. You'll learn things that will increase your enjoyment and your fishing success - and the classes are fun. When that lunker trout grabs hold of your Pteronarcys this summer, you'll be glad you attended Ed's class.

Fit To Be Tyed



by
Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook

Fledermouse

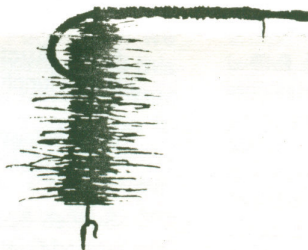
Contrary to what you might be thinking, today's creation was not from the pen of Richard Strauss, but rather from the bench of the late Jack B. Schneider of San Jose, California. The pattern was conceived one rainy August morning in 1949 at Wade Lake, Montana. It was first used that evening at about the time the bats first started skimming insects from the water's surface, thus the name.

Its success ratio was phenomenal then and continues nearly 40 years later. Of course, we're talking about rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout, but it's such a buggy looking critter, I can't help but feel it would be a great bass and panfish getter as well.

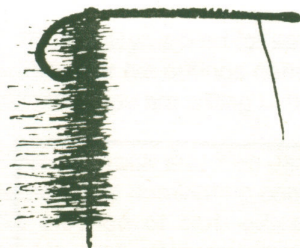
Tie it full or sparse, weighted or not. If you plan to fish it over or through weed beds, a weed guard is suggested. Your material needs are simple; Mustad hook #9674 or #79580 in sizes 4 or 6, black monocord or 3/0 nylon, muskrat fur with guard hairs and grey squirrel tail.



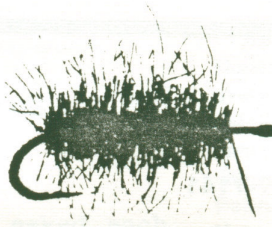
1. Attach thread on shank above hook point. Form a 4" to 5" dubbing loop. Then wind thread forward to a point about 2 eye diameters from the hook eye. Half hitch.



2. Cut three clumps of muskrat fur from the side or back of the hide. Don't use the belly as there are fewer guard hairs. Insert each clump of fur and guard hairs between the threads of the dubbing loop. Spread each clump evenly from the hook shank down to the loop end.



3. Insert dubbing hook into end of dubbing loop and spin clockwise keeping tension on loop to keep it straight. When finished, the dubbing loop should look like a very fuzzy piece of chenille.



4. Wrap dubbing forward in tight even spirals, folding hair back to keep it from matting down. Continue forward to point tying thread is half hitched. Tie off. Cut off excess dubbing loop.



5. Clip and clean a small clump of grey squirrel tail hair for the wing. The wing must be sparse. Tie in wing so that the hair barely extends beyond the hook bend. Apply a drop of head cement to wing butts. Complete the head and whip finish.
Das ist die Fledermouse!

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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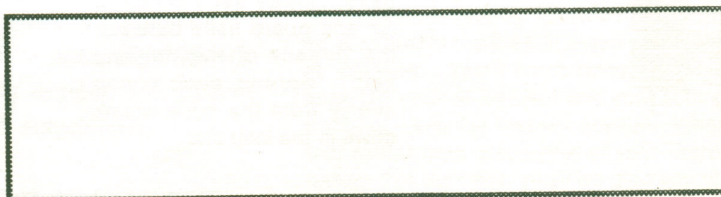
TEXAS FLYFISHERS OFFICERS

President John Scarborough
Vice-President Wright Guthrie
Treasurer Temp Deaver
Secretary Steve Wright
Exec. Ass't Tony Woods

TFF EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>WHEN & WHO</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
January 14, 21,28, February 4,11,18,25 <i>Ed Rizzolo - 7:00 p.m.</i>	Beginning Fly Tying	St. John's Church Room 010, Ed. Bldg.
January 26 - 7:00 p.m. <i>John Hannah and Roger Anderson</i>	Club Meeting "Silver Creek, Idaho"	Viscount Hotel
February 6	Guadalupe River Outing with Dallas and San Antonio Clubs	Bean's Camp Sadler, TX
March 5 - 11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. <i>Every one</i>	Club Auction Buffet lunch and <i>free</i> beer	Bavarian Gardens Rest. 3926 Feagan
March 10 - 7:00 p.m. <i>Ed Rizzolo</i>	Entomology "Stoneflies"	St. John's Church Room 010, Ed. Bldg.
April 16	Sunfish Spectacular and Casting Championship	Valley Lodge Simonton, TX

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Address correction requested