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Fit To Be Tied: Norm (Lack O' Hackle) Crook

January Meeting

Date: January 28, 1986
Place: St. John's Episcopal Church
Room 010, Education Bldg.
River Oaks and Westheimer
Time: 7:00...Fit To Be Tied...The Woolly Booger
7:30...Main Program...Entomology...Judy Lehmborg

November Meeting

The program, given by Nelson Herwig, Curator of Fishes at the Houston Zoological Gardens, was not about fishing. It was about fish. Our thanks to Ralph Hutzler for bringing this educational, entertaining, and off-beat program.

Calendar Changes

John Scarborough announces that the annual auction is moved to Saturday, April 19th, at Pappa Blakely's. The club auction is our most important fund raiser and is an opportunity for members to find some real bargains and to enjoy some first-class fun and fishing fellowship.

Items of a practical, artistic, and comic nature are auctioned, and now is the time to start thinking about what you will donate. El Presidente hints that he might donate his Water Wagon - but will probably give his duck caller instead. If nothing comes to mind, a dozen flies in a nice box make a good donation.

Our monthly club meeting for February will be held on Friday, the 21st. It will be one of the very popular dinner meetings and will be at Sonny Look's on South Main. More details next month.

Fly-tying

Ed Rizzolo's first beginners' tying class played to a packed house on January 9th. The good doctor runs one of the best tying programs in the country.

Outings

Doug Irby will lead an outing to the Guadalupe the weekend of January 25th. Headquarters will be the Maricopa Lodge (make your own reservations). If the water is too high the alternate location will be Buescher State Park near Smithville. Call Doug at 496-9476 (h) or 966-5231 (o) for details. The Guadalupe stage is reported daily in the weather section of the Post. Anything much over 500 CFS makes fly-fishing way too tough. Maricopa Lodge is in Statler.

New Members

Tony Woods, the world's most organized individual, announces the following new members: Gus Kormeir, Butch Abendsheir, Ross Wilhite, and Terri Satterwhite. The warmest of TFF welcomes to you all.

Abercrombie & Fitch

Dan Edwards is bringing western-Montana guide Chris Nelson to A & F for an all-day fly-fishing seminar on Thursday, January 16th. The program, which has an evening session beginning at 7:00, will feature information on some great - but lesser known - Montana streams, as well as tying and casting demonstrations. Dan has fished with Chris and recommends him.

Bahamas Bonefishing

Bill Bush of Outdoor Expeditions, Inc. plans a trip to Deepwater Key on February 17th through 21st. The all-inclusive cest will be around \$1,100, a real bargain especially when you consider that you will be fishing with the one and only Brooks Bouldin. Call Bill at 621-7342.

On The Salty Side

By: Eliot Tucker

Orvis' New Commitment To Saltwater Fly Fishing

Not too many years ago Orvis had very little to offer the salt-water fly fisherman, but today that has changed substantially. A few years ago, Orvis had not developed the rods, reels or flies needed by fly fishers who sought specks, reds, bonefish, or tarpon. Today, Orvis has first rate products specifically designed to fit each of those needs. Orvis has invested a lot of effort, time, and money in seeking to capture a rapidly growing market. They have had the courage to try a lot of new products and the integrity to reject them when they were found wanting.

This is important to us in Houston because Orvis is the most fully-equipped purveyor of fly fishing gear in town. Salt-water Sportsman, Abercrombie & Fitch, Cutrate Sporting Goods, and to a lesser extent, other sporting goods stores sell products salt-water fly fishers can use, but none has such a complete line of products and none has the straightforward and personable Dave Hayward of Orvis Houston.


Orvis' newly redesigned tarpon rod is a true fish fighting tool with lifting ability needed to handle big fish. Orvis' SSS series reels are a match for tarpon or any other saltwater fish you are likely to try to take on a fly. They are a match for even the venerable Fin Nor and weigh substantially less.

Their rods for bones, redds, and other smaller species include the 9 by 9 Shooting Star (9 ft. for a 9 weight line), the 8'9" for an 8 weight line (Western Series) and the 9'3" for an 8 weight line (Western Series). All three rods have a full metal reel seat.

The reel Orvis recommends for the smaller fish is the new Presentation reel. It is lightweight, has ample line capacity, a large spindle to minimize wobble, is counter balanced, fully anodized and has an efficient and infinitely variable drag system. Not only that, it will cook your fish too!

Joking aside, it does have two other notable features. It comes in two forms, an exposed rim model that can be palmed and a regular rim model, and it looks great.

Orvis SSS line is extra stiff. This lessens line slap and extends casts. I recently field-tested the line and found I was easily shooting the whole line before I realized it.

Anyone new to salt-water fly fishing or anyone expanding his horizons in the sport would be well served to see what the Vermont trout fishermen have learned in recent years. It is quite impressive. 

Book Reviews

By: John T. Hannah

THE ANGLER'S COAST, by Russell Chatham. Doubleday and Company

They say that artists are good observers, enabling them to transfer what they see to canvas. Being an artist as well as a writer, Russell Chatham is good at transferring what he sees not only to canvas but also into words. So he can produce rich similes like: "sea lions charging through the school, scattering the little fish like sparks from a grinding wheel."

Chatham is one of a number of fine writers who have turned up in, of all places, Montana; writers such as Ivan Doig, Wallace Stegner, and Thomas McGuane. The introduction to this book was written by McGuane and it's as wild as his novels are. (Actually, I didn't understand it.)

Chatham being a Montanan, it is surprising that he is a salt-water fisherman. Joe Brooks called him a great salt-water fisherman. The stories

in this book are all either about Chatham's fishing in the bays and surf of his angler's coast (Pacific) or about his angling for anadromous species-- fish that have come into the rivers from the salt. So if you would like to read a book that's not just about fishing for trout in streams, here is a very enjoyable one about flyfishing for striped bass, Pacific snappers, shad, herring, Pacific salmon, and steelhead.

Chatham writes with humor and biting satire. He doesn't pinch down has barbs when he hooks into spin fishermen and tournament anglers, and people who mess up the environment.

I went scurrying to my dictionary to look up "fundament." Chatham tells of an angler whose wayward backcast caused him to hook the fundament of a passing lady. She ran to her car, slammed the door, and lurched away as the angler's reel screamed.

You probably know what a fish ladder is, but you might not know what a fishing ladder is. That's what one of Chatham's companions, who was a sign painter, took out of his pickup to fish from the top of in water that was too deep for his waders.

I liked this paragraph:

As is often the case during summer, the northern California coast was fogbound. From the vast windows of the house where I was staying I could barely see any of it. For example, I couldn't see across the inlet to where the quaint town of Mendocino inhabited its mesa, a town so patently picturesque it was almost a relief not to be able to see it.

This book is so entertaining that I guess we'll have to forgive Chatham for a couple of his chapter titles: "Herring is Believing" and "Wading For Godot."

Fishing News

When the first cool spell back in November pushed the Trinity Bay specks near the shoreline, Jack Sisson, Chris Phillips, and Dave Hayward were waiting for them and scored heavily on Deceivers and Seducers.

Early in January the same Mr. Hayward and El Presidente Scarborough caught some feisty bass on Fayette County using sink-tip lines and Woolly Boogers.

I've lost my notes on one of the best stories of the year, an Alaskan adventure by Andy Tripoli. Watch for it next month.

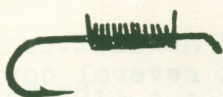
Leave it to "Lack O' Hackle" to say the last word on 1985 Fishing News. Invited to fish the exclusive Wigwam Club water near Colorado Springs over Thanksgiving, Norm bundled up against the 16 degree weather. To keep his own wig wam he draped a fur cap over that gleaming dome. Then, using Wolly Boogers, he caught and released rainbows from 4 to 5½ pounds. How many? "I quit counting at ten."

Call your Fishing News to Ken Jacoby at 409-273-2991 (h) or 873-6210 (o).

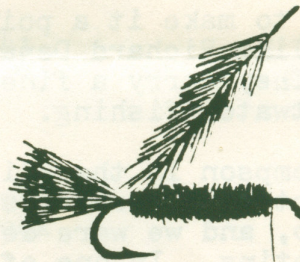
FIT TO BE TYED



In the last issue of the rag we started the winter trout season with a Nymph. Lets move on with another good trout producer, The Woolly Booger. Actually it's a variation of the old reliable Woolly Worm which has been a successful producer for many years. The most productive colors are dark olive, black and on overcast days or at nightfall a bright yellow one works wonders. Like most streamers and wet flies fish it across and downstream. Let the current carry it along but use an occasional twitch of the rod tip and a slow strip of about a foot. Most hits seem to come at the end of the swing. Come Spring, you might try the Woolly Booger on your favorite bass water. — Here are your material needs: Hooks, Mustad 9672 or 79580 sizes 2 thru 10, Dark Olive Chenille Medium or Large, Olive Grizzly Saddle, Olive Grizzly Maribou. 3/0 or 6/0 Black Thread and Lead Wire equal to the diameter of the hook wire.



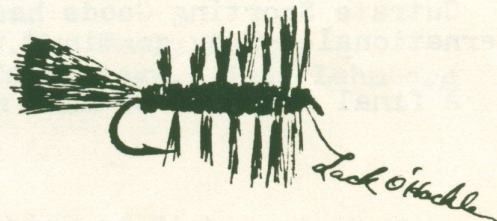
1. Wrap the hook with 10 to 12 turns of lead wire. Centerwire midway between eye and hook point.



4. Wrap Chenille forward to a point about 2 eye diameters back from the eye. Tie off.



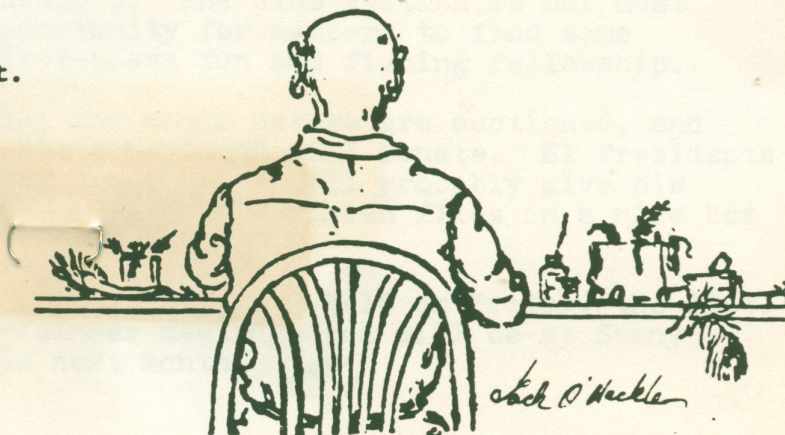
2. Tie in thread at forward end. Wind back and forth to create a tapered body. Finish wind at hook point.



5. Wind hackle in a long spirel forward. (Make sure hackle stem is well bedded in the chenille otherwise a good trout will rip the hackle off on its first hit). The off hackle and whip finish small neat head.



3. Tie in barred maribou tail 1/2 to 2/3 shank length. Tie in chenille. Wind thread to point above hook point. Tie in olive saddle hackle by tip, convex side forward.



(6)

Loose Hooks


Oshkosh, Wisconsin, houses the National Aviation Museum, a nice university, and the Oshkosh B'Gosh Overall factory (the kind Brooks Bouldin wears). The population of Oshkosh will be increased by one of the best friends this club has ever had, Brian Bilinski. Brian will be working with Willow Creek Press, publisher of beautiful hunting and fishing books. We wish you all the best, old friend.

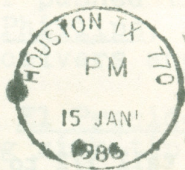
The mailing labels for recent editions of Wind Knots are the courtesy of Gordon Roessler. Thanks, Gordon.

We want to make it a point to support the people who have supported us. People like Richard Dana and the other good folks over at the Saltwater Sportsman. They carry a fine line of fly tackle as well as whatever you need for saltwater fishing.

Norm Thompson is the editor of his Trout Unlimited newsletter for the T.U. chapter in Mercer Island, Washington. He sent several copies to Ed Rizzolo, and we were delighted to read these entertaining and well-written bulletins. In one of them, we thought we detected a hint of a bit of heresy in Norm's fishing techniques, but knowing him, we must be mistaken. It was great to hear from Norm, who says that, "Living in Washington state is tough. Tough to decide on any given day whether to go out after trout, largemouth or smallmouth bass, salmon, or steelhead, or searun cutthroat."

Cutrate Sporting Goods has changed their name to Cutrate Fishing International. They continue to have good merchandise and good prices.

A final reminder to make note of the calendar changes. 



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