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Editor: Ken Jacoby
Graphics: Lance Brown, Dave Hayward
Writers: Mitch Whitney, John Hannah, Eliot Tucker
Fit To Be Tied: Norm (Lack O' Hackle) Crook

July Meeting

DATE: July 31, 1984
PLACE: St. John's Episcopal Church
Room 010, Education Building
River Oaks and Westheimer
TIME: 7:30 Fit To Be Tied
8:00 Main Program

June Meeting

The following slate of officers was unanimously elected:

President.....John Scarborough
Vice President..Mitch Whitney
Treasurer.....Charles Weems
Secretary,.....Mark Hollier


The main program featured the award-winning film produced by the Gulf Coast Conservation Association, "The Endangered Crescent." This salt-water documentary about our area, GCCA's first, is a magnificent film.

Darby, Shepherd, Thanheiser

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Gary Shepherd and Charlie Thanheiser are also stepping down as officers after serving TFF for many years. These guys are what this club is all about. Our thanks to these expert trout fishermen, wise club counselors, and stars of many conclave cash bars.

Dues


Club dues, \$20.00, are due now. Give your check to Charlie Weems at the July meeting or mail it to him at the club's address. If you joined during the year, the dues are pro-rated at \$5.00 per quarter. 

The Federation Of Fly Fishers

Some of us, yours truly included, have had the idea that the Federation of Fly Fishers is a cold-water organization entirely. Any fair examination of the Federation will indicate that this is just not so.

The Federation is vitally interested in expanding in the warm and salt-water areas. To do this, they need the expertise available from members of clubs like ours. FFF is an all-volunteer organization. That's what John Scarborough means when he says "We are the Federation."

If you doubt the above, check the feature article in the latest The Flyfisher. Titled "The Texas Coast," it's written by a couple of fellows named Jim Darby and Eliot Tucker, and it's a good one. Furthermore, the Federation has just now created two new offices: salt-water and warm-water vice presidencies. The Salt-water V. P. is our own Brooks Bouldin. Ted Calvert of Alabama is the Warm-water V. P.

No matter what other fishing organizations you belong to, if you are a serious fly fisher, you need to join the Federation. It's \$20.00 per year. Join through our club. Send your check to Charlie Weems at the club's address. 

The Six Types Of Flats Boats

By: Eliot Tucker

This is the last of a three-part series. The fifth type of boat is a wooden boat manufactured, as far as I know, exclusively in the Port Aransas area, called the "Port Aransas skiff." These wooden boats can be obtained for prices ranging from \$1,500.00 for the basic boat, to as much as \$5,000.00 for Smokey Gaines' fancified versions, which are truly beautiful boats. They have about the same shallow water capability as a john boat, but handle rough water a lot better than a flat bottom john boat. They are much more esthetically pleasing and do take a poling tower much better than an aluminium boat because of their weight. These boats pole quite well but do not have good casting platforms because they are turned up at the bow.

The sixth category of flat boats are the Florida Keys type bonefish skiffs. These boats have less shallow water capability than all the others, are much more expensive, and go much faster. They are specifically designed for fly fishing, pole extremely well, and have two excellent casting platforms. They also are designed to be outfitted with poling towers. They do not take to oyster reefs nearly as well as aluminium boats. They do take rough water much better than any of the previously mentioned boats.

There are many other types of boats used in the Texas bays, but most of them are designed for open water. They are fine for getting from flat to flat but are largely useless on the flat itself. They tend to be V-bottom boats that cannot be poled well and simply have no shallow water capability. Unless you want a more versatile boat that will also permit you to fish the open water, the jetties, and offshore comfortably, I would not buy one of those boats. If your principle objective is to get a flats fishing boat, you should stick to one of the six types evaluated in this series of articles.

If our members are interested in seeing these flats boats, we should encourage our program chairman to schedule a boat show at one of our meetings during the summer months where we can have one example of each type available for inspection.

Conservation

Brooks reports that there is talk of a proposed bypass to the Canyon Dam that would have an effect on the flows in the river. Trout Unlimited is looking into this and will advise us of their findings. T. U. has renewed the Kanz lease program for the coming year.

In his new office as Salt-water V. P. to the Federation, Brooks is considering some projects that he would like to see developed. Among them are: the publishing of a salt-water fly fishing guide for the gulf coast, describing types of water, depth, accessibility, guides, lodging, tackle, and tactics; a salt-water conservation project; the development of the Tucker-Darby slide show into a formal program for the Federation; and a salt-water conclave to be held in November, 1985.

If you would like to donate a dozen flies for the Federation's national conclave in August, they would be much appreciated. Get them to Brooks before August 1st.

Fly Of The Month

The month's Fit To BeTied is a rerun from several years ago. Presented by Herb Penning, the artwork is by Lance Brown. As you know, Herb is moving to Miami. He says that he has a spare bedroom and will make it available to TFFers coming that way for tarpon and bonefish. Call him in advance. Herb's new address is:

8421 Dundee Terrace
Miami Lakes, Fla. 32016
305/821-3794

Herb's property backs up to a 35 acre lake full of large bass and bluegills. He's already caught some giant bluegills, using - you guessed it - a secret Florida nymph.

Book Reviews

John Hannah is taking this month off to fish Silver Creek in Idaho. His book reviews will continue next month.

Fishing News

Robert Aguayo enjoyed some excellent early June fishing at the birthplace of American fly fishing. Using March Brown nymphs, he caught and released a good number of 14 to 16 inch brown trout from the Delaware and Beaverkill Rivers in New York. Robert beat the crowds by fishing from Tuesday through Thursday, and avoiding the weekend.

Chris Phillips has entered the fast lane of big-time, high-pressure tarpon tournaments in Florida. He teamed with an angler from San Francisco to win one in June, and then placed 11th in the prestigious Gold Coast Invitational.

Last month I wrote that Chris had caught one twentyfive-pounder. That should have read that he caught a 125-pounder. We missed the size of that fish by 100 pounds, a new record for this newsletter.

Dan Edwards, as we have reported here, has been releasing fish as fast as Al Lasher has been catching them. On a recent tip, Al announced that if he caught a trophy, he was keeping it, no matter what Dan said or did.

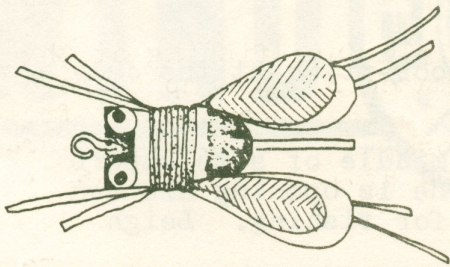
Dan tied a Water Pup with a barbless hook on Al's leader. A six-pound bass hit, made three great leaps, and fought wildly before falling off the hook and into the net. When Al saw the barbless hook, he turned white, grabbed the fish in both arms, and headed home before Dan could figure some other way of losing it.

Norm Crook was fishing the Danbury club lake at dusk when a hatch of large, yellow mayflies started coming off. Norm clinched on a yellow Slider and instantly caught a nice bass. Then he hooked and lost a big one. Already late, he then had to leave for home.

The next day at the office, Norm could think only of those yellow mayflies and those bass. After work he raced home, grabbed his gear, and roared off to the club lake. As he was inflating his float tube, he looked out across the lake and, yes, there they were - those big, yellow mayflies. Quickly, he joined his rod and reached for his.... reached for his fishing vest. The vest, containing Norm's reel and flies, was back at the house, hanging on a peg in the tackle room.

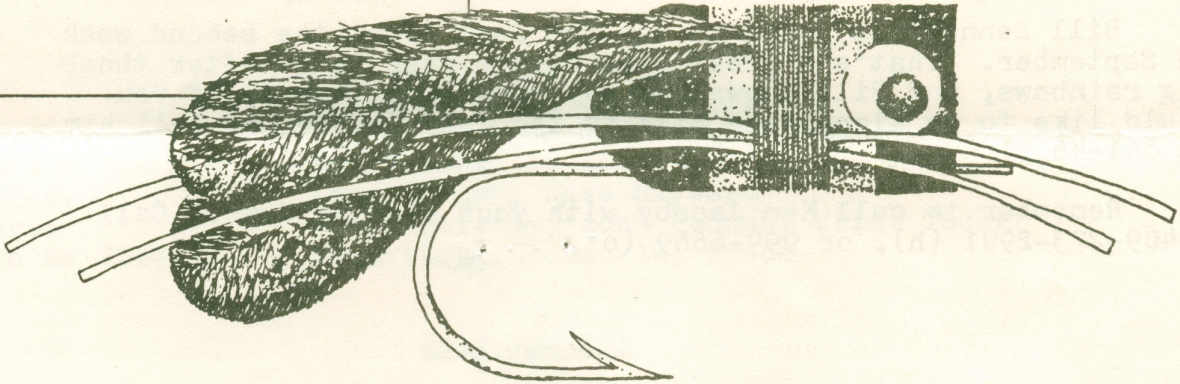
As Norm slowly deflated his float tube, the big bass began rising for the mayflies. As he drove away from the lake, they were swirling and splashing after the bugs.

The best catch of the summer was made by Orvis's Jim Davis, who has hooked a pretty and pleasant young lady named Wendy Johnson and is reeling her in for an August 25th wedding.



BUMBLE POPPER

SUBMITTED BY: HERB PENNING



1. Glue cylindrical cork body onto a Mustad #33903 #8 or #10 with epoxy glue and allow to dry.
2. Seal and paint body- base coat black. Paint a yellow stripe around the body, 2/3 width of the body. Leave the front and back black.
3. Add eyes - white with red centers.
4. Attach thread (black) at mid-point of the yellow stripe.
5. Match four body feathers to be twice the length of the body and pair up.
6. Tie in one pair at each side of the body so that the wings will lie flat, similar to delta wings.
7. Tie in two rubber legs on each side parallel to hook shank under the wing and tie off.

8. Trim front end of legs slightly ahead of the hook eye. Trim rear 3/4" to 1" past bend of hook.
9. Cement all wraps.

Use on blue gills in smaller sizes (#8 & #10) and bass in larger sizes (#2 & #4). Cast in usual manner with popping bug. Allow to settle in water for 20 - 30 seconds without movement and then twitch towards you, pausing between twitches.

This fly was found in a shop tied by its inventor and/or adaptor. He told me it was a fly that took many fresh water bass and blue gills throughout the year. This color combination is best, but it can also be solid. The wings give you a use for all those short, wide body feathers. Experiment with different colors and hit the water.

Have fun.



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