



WIND KNOTS

July Meeting

Date: July 28, 1987

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

Time: 7:00 **Fit To Be Tied**
"Lefty's Deceiver"

7:30 **Main Program**
Mike Wood
"The Lakes of
Danbury"

June Meeting

The business portion of the meeting was highlighted by the quickest election in club history. The slate proposed by Brooks Bouldin's nominating committee was unanimously elected. Officers for the term beginning July 1, 1987 are:

President *John Scarborough*
Vice President ... *Wright Guthrie*
Treasurer *Temp Deaver*
Secretary *Steve Wright*

The excellent crowd of 82 people then settled back and enjoyed a wonderful program. Eliot Tucker and Jim Darby put on as good a show as this club has ever seen. Their subject was "Saltwater Fly Fishing On The Texas Coast."

A Simplistic View

In a recent edition of the Green Country Flyfishers' fine newsletter, "G. C. F. Flyline," we came across the following, written by editor Jack Hannah:

"A Simplistic View From Your Editor

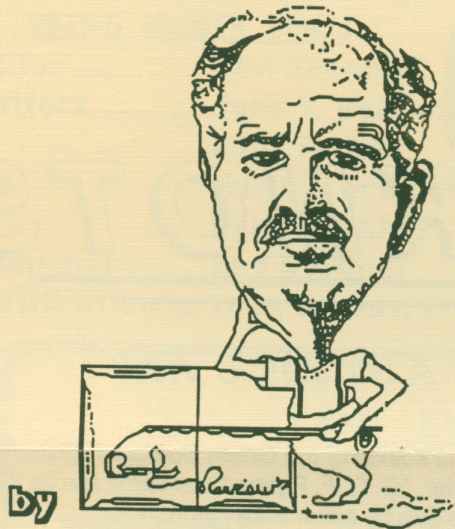
Have you ever felt vaguely dissatisfied about something, but couldn't quite put your finger on what it is? In my case it is purely a personal thing and may not be a sentiment shared by others. It has to do with the formalization of fishing -- all types of fishing. From bass tournaments to fishing schools. The pressures of everyday life that fishing helps alleviate are slowly being put into fishing itself. People are now making their living by angling. To them, it is no longer a recreation, but an avocation.

In fly fishing, the trend is to make fishing a science. Everything must have an explanation, from the life cycle of insects to the physics of casting. And some anglers spend more time getting together and talking about fishing than they do in fishing itself. The wonderment and mystery of the fishing experience must necessarily diminish as exactitude and style increase....."

* * * * *

Jack's piece makes plenty of sense, and we were in total agreement until another view was demonstrated at Ed Rizzolo's June entomology class. Knowledge will definitely help your fishing success, but it is also fascinating to learn about the insect kingdom. And what a kingdom it is. That's the great thing about fly fishing - you can bite off as much as you care to chew.

Here's a tip: **Don't miss the next entomology class.**



by

John T. Hannah

BLUES by John Hersey, Alfred A. Knopf, 1987.

In *THE COMPLEAT ANGLER*, Piscator tells his pupil Venator:

I care not, I, to fish in seas;
Fresh rivers best my mind do please.

In *BLUES*, however, Fisherman, the teacher in this book, is obviously partial to saltwater angling, and he tells his pupil, Stranger, about many wonders of the sea.

In spite of the shift from fresh to saltwater, and the intervention of centuries, there are many similarities between Hersey's book and Walton's - the most apparent being the teacher-pupil dialogue.

The setting for *BLUES* is Martha's Vineyard, where Hersey has spent twenty summers. He has acquired a great deal of knowledge about fish of the sea, especially bluefish, and in *BLUES* this knowledge is dispensed as crisply and as tightly as the six - o'clock news. Hersey's Fisherman admits to being in awe of bluefish, which he says were "crafted from flexible steel." He has more than just a working knowledge of blues, he has a relationship with them. Fisherman believes that it is not enough to think of fish anthropomorphically, but that we should think ichthyomorphically. We shouldn't think of fish in human terms ("blues are murderous") but rather in fish terms, and he tries to help Stranger do this.

Like Walton, Hersey waxes philosophical and he uses poetry to enrich his text. And, like Walton, he shares some pearls of observation: When a fish dies, its shimmering color fades as though its soul had pigment. Hersey calls flounder and fluke, which have both of their eyes on one side of their heads, Picasso fish. And some little-known facts: When a fish is under stress and fighting, its heart beats slower, not faster. Fiji mothers used to throw the umbilical cords of their infant sons into the sea to make them good fishermen.

In each chapter, Fisherman offers a recipe for preparing bluefish, recipes which should be useful for other species.

Fisherman says that the nations of fishes are as numerous as the nations of man. I don't think that it's too much to say that the fish of the sea, and those who angle for them, now have their Izaak Walton.

The Federation

By: Herb Penning

Ever gone fishing and not caught one? Ever wonder why? You had the best equipment, the "hot" pattern, and nothing happened except you went home frustrated. That's what happened prior to the Federation's origin as a conservation, quality-fishing organization. Imagine standing cheek to jowl with many other fishers all trying to catch and take home just a few fish by any means possible. The Federation has insured that future fishing quality will be preserved, enhanced, and spread across the country.

What have YOU done to insure quality fishing and conservation? Have you joined the Federation? Are you an active participant in spreading the catch and release philosophy? Or are you a FFF gate crasher? Think of the future of the quality fishing you enjoy through the involvement of others. ----- **Join the FFF today!**

Lame Ducks

Each of us owes our thanks to the out-going officers of the club, Rod Gardner, Charlie Weems and Phil Staley. They served us well and each of them will continue to be very active in the TFF.



On
The
Salty Side
by Elliot Tucker

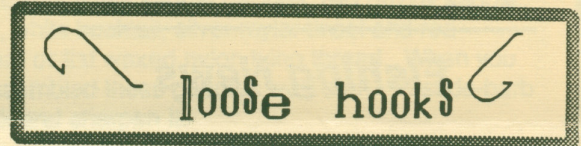
THE BEST FISH I EVER ATE

The best fish I ever ate
Was a snook
Caught in a nook of a bay
Near the roots of a mangrove
On a fly tied with pangrove
Cast in the wind on a whim
At a blur I could see
Through the leaves of the trees
That lined the shore of the bay
Where the little fish lay
Waiting for lunch on the hunch
That time and the tide
Would provide him a feast
Or at least
A bite that was right.

Instead of his expectation,
His failure to perform expectation
At his first doubt
That the mite he had bite
Was not right
Caused him to be yanked by the lip
Into the grip of a hungry hip
Who squeezed on some jugo de lima
And sauteed him in mantequilla
And ate him with refritos

And a redheaded woman
Who remarked that the fish
Was as fresh as the air
In the palms on the porch
Where we munched on the brown crunch
That had been the snook
In the nook of the bay.

Elliot P. Tucker



We are sorry to learn that George Ayres was injured in an accident while trimming a tree at his Rockport house. He is home from the hospital now and is on the mend. George, all of us send you our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Because of deadlines and dates, some club functions are not mentioned in the body of *Wind Knots*. Please carefully review the club calendar on the back page so you don't miss these important activities.

While visiting his movie actor son in Hollywood recently, Norm Crook was "discovered" while sitting at the soda fountain at Schwab's Drug Store. His first role will be in the fly fishing thriller, "The Pteronarcys That Ate Newark."

Bowing to pressure from the Executive Committee, John Scarborough has agreed to become TFF leader-for-life. His new title will be "Czar," and he will wear a small, zircon-encrusted crown during club functions.

An example of where this club has gone under the leadership of Mr. Scarborough: a member at the June meeting tried to win the fly raffle with a ticket stub from the Cinema West Theater.

We understand that Eliot Tucker was stopped recently by the River Oaks Poetry Police, and was given a warning ticket.

Want Ads

Chris Phillips is now guiding regularly on East and West Galveston Bays and the Rockport area. Chris is an active club member and a world-class fly -fisher (see Fishing News). A trip with him is a great experience. Call Chris at 370-6842.

Fishing News

Shelby Gibbs toured Ireland for a week, and enjoyed the beauty of that lovely country. He sat aside only one day for fishing, and therefore had no time available for not catching fish. Sure enough, after drifting a badger wet fly for 45 minutes through one of the pools at the Ballyhanich Castle water, he promptly landed a 6 pound Atlantic salmon.

Chris Phillips had been hearing about the "Big Push" for 6 years, and now the first week in May, he had hit it just right. Every direction he looked he saw tarpon. Using an 8-weight rod and an 8# test tippet, and wading in knee-deep water off the Florida Keys, Chris jumped 32 tarpon in one day! He landed a 75 pounder and an 85 pounder. Chris is shooting for the 8# test world record, which currently stands at 130#.

Then in June, Chris again fished the most prestigious of all flyfishing tournaments, The Gold Cup Invitational. Competing against 24 of the worlds best anglers, including Billy Pate and Ben Hardesty, Chris released two 65 pounders and finished 9th.

While fishing with his father recently, ten year old Payson Tucker caught an 8# redfish on a spoon on a day he will remember for several reasons.

Norm Crook went to Connecticut in May and had the unique experience of fishing the same stream that he had fished as a youth, whenever that might have been. L.O.H. reports that the river is not nearly as good now as he remembers it, but he caught some nice brookies and browns on one of John Hannah's Carrottops.

Bob Leslie and Ross Wilhite were casting for bonefish in Belize when their guide spotted a huge leopard ray near the boat and decided to poke it with the pole. The ray leaped into the air and entered the boat, whereupon Mr. Leslie leaped into the air and exited the boat, leaving Ross to stare into the gaping maw of the ugly monster. Bob and Ross have a new motto: "Don't poke that Ray!"

* * * *

John Scarborough has peculiar standards. He will fish with Tony Woods, but he will not fish with a knot in his leader. On a recent trip to Danbury, the totally organized Mr. Woods found the feeding area of the huge copper-nosed sunfish, and was catching one every cast, while our Fearless Leader was frantically changing his wind-knotted leader. The F.L.'s haste caused this series of misfortunes: 1.) his new leader was not tied to the line, resulting in the disappearance of the leader during the cast; 2.) his fly was not tied on properly, resulting in the disappearance of the fly also; 3.) his spare rod dropped into water unnoticed; and then, after Tony had caught 40 of these monster brim, the fish quit hitting just as Mr. Scarborough was finally geared up properly.



**THE
PREZ
SEZ!**

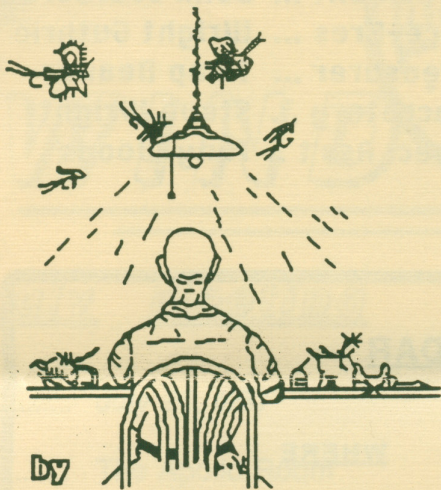
by

John

Scarborough

The program on saltwater fly fishing in Texas given at the June club meeting by Eliot Tucker and Jim Darby demonstrates again what a deep reservoir of talent we have in this club. Their presentation was just terrific!

FIT TO BE TYED



by

Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook

Lefty's Deceiver

Since the salt water season is hard upon us, no one worth his "salt" should be without one of the best fish getters. You guessed it, "Lefty's Deceiver." The designer is our good friend and super supporter of The Federation, Lefty Kreh. Lefty ties it on up to a 7/0 hook in fly lengths up to 12" long. For our use in the bays and the surf, we'll talk about flies on hook sizes 4 to 2/0.

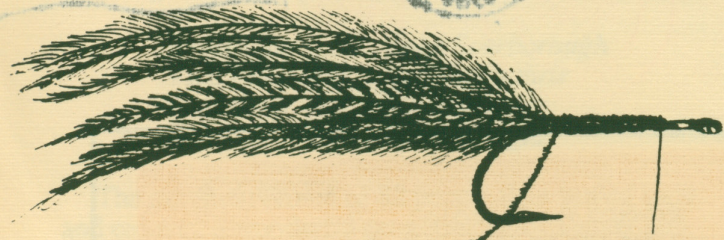
For material you'll need Mustad hook #34007 which is stainless, four white saddle hackles, two grizzly saddle hackles, white bucktail, silver mylar tinsel and red monocord or flat waxed nylon tying thread. When you have assembled these goodies we'll start. First de-barb the hook and sharpen it.



1.) Attach thread immediately behind eye. Wrap evenly to a point above barb. Trim and tie in 2 grizzly hackles back to back. These should extend no less than 3 hook shank lengths beyond the hook bend. Do not cut off hackle stems.



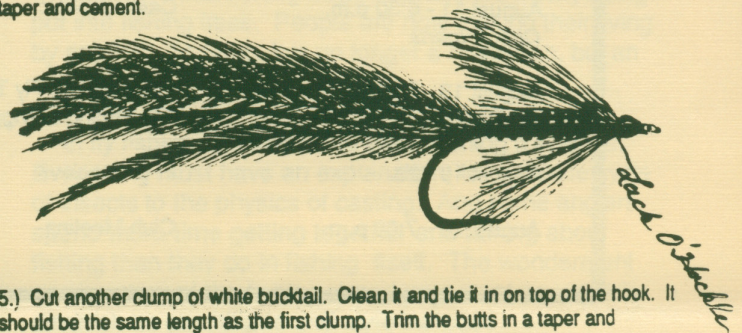
2. Trim and tie in 4 white saddle hackles the same length as the grizzly hackles, two on each side of the grizzlies, the shiny side facing out. Again, do not cut off the stems. Allow them to extend as illustrated.



3. Tie in the tinsel. Then tie down the hackle stems evenly wrapping the tying thread forward to a point about 3 eye diameters back from the eye. Apply a liberal coat of head cement. Wait a few moments for the cement to become tacky then wind the tinsel forward evenly over the hackle stems to a point forward of where the tying thread stops. Tie off the tinsel and cut off the hackle stems.



4. Cut and clean a small clump of white bucktail. Tie it in on the under side of the hook. The tips should extend to, but not beyond, the barb. Trim the butts in a taper and cement.



5.) Cut another clump of white bucktail. Clean it and tie it in on top of the hook. It should be the same length as the first clump. Trim the butts in a taper and cement. Finish off with a well tapered head and whip finish.

Fish it to tailing reds if you see them, or fish it blind. But in either case fish it with a short fast stripping action. In shallow water use a floating line. But if you're after trout, you'll probably be fishing blind in guts or deeper water. Use your sink tip to get it down and again use a fast strip to get the action into the fly. You'll know when you have a hit or a hookup. It will be aggressive. Enjoy!

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

WIND KNOTS STAFF

Editor Ken Jacoby
Writers John T. Hannah
 Eliot Tucker
 Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook
 Herb Penning
Publisher Rod Gardner
Distribution ... Tony Woods, Frank Schleicher

TEXAS FLYFISHERS OFFICERS

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

TFF EVENTS CALENDAR

WHEN & WHO

WHAT

WHERE

July 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Ed Rizzolo

Intermediate Fly Tying
"Hopper Flies"

St. John's Church
Room 010, Ed. Bldg.

July 14 - 6:30 p.m.
Club Experts

Casting Clinic

The Lakes at Post Oak
Richmond and Post Oak

July 28 - 7:00 p.m.
Mike Wood

Club Meeting
"The Lakes of Danbury"

Viscount Hotel

August 11 - 6:30 p.m.
Club Experts

Casting Clinic

The Lakes at Post Oak
Richmond and Post Oak

August 13 - 7:00 p.m.
Ed Rizzolo

Intermediate Fly Tying
"Swimming & Wiggle Nymphs"

St. John's Church
Room 010, Ed. Bldg.

August 19 - 23

FFF Conclave

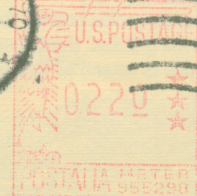
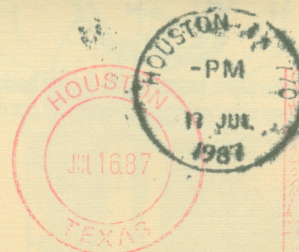
West Yellowstone, Montana

August 25 - 7:00 p.m.

Club Meeting

Viscount Hotel

TEXAS FLYFISHERS
P.O. BOX 27141
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7141



Edward A. Rizzolo
1204 White Wing Circle
Friendswood, TX 77546

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Address correction requested