



P.O. Box 27141
Houston, Texas 77227-7141

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


June Meeting

DATE: June 26th, 1984
PLACE: St. John's Episcopal Church
Room 010, Education Bldg.
River Oaks and Westheimer
TIME: 7:30 Fit To Be Tied
8:00 Main Program

Election Of Officers

The annual election of club officers will be held at the June 26th meeting. The nominating committee has put up the following slate:


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

Nominations will also be taken from the floor. 

Loose Hooks

The casting clinic on May 29th showed that there are as many casting styles as there are casters; all different, but effective. Some instructions were given, some tales were told, and a good time was had by all.

The feedback on Gary Borger's presentation at the Orvis store and at the club seminar last month is that Gary was absolutely terrific.

Outings Chairman Roger (Which Way Did They Go?) Rowe is planning a club trip to Port O'Connor the weekend of June 23rd. Call him at 981-5868 for details. 

Annual Dues

Club dues are due in July. They are \$20.00. If you joined during the year, the dues are pro-rated at \$5.00 per quarter. Give your check to the treasurer at the July meeting, or mail it in.

Although not required, membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers is strongly encouraged. Federation dues are \$20.00. The Federation speaks for all fly fishers, and our club was founded as a FFF affiliate. Your check for FFF dues should also go to our treasurer. 🐟

Southern Council Conclave

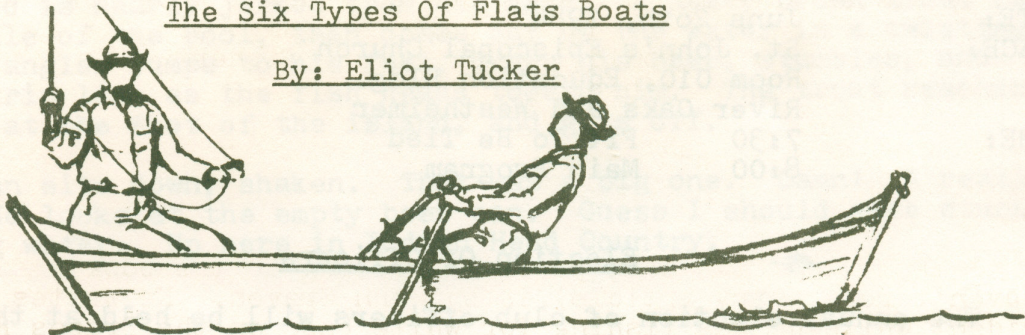
Remember to begin tying a dozen flies for the above conclave, to be held in Mountain Home, Arkansas, on October 5th through 7th. Flies should be mailed to:

Steve Jensen
4514 Coach Dr.
Brookline, Mo. 65619

It's going to be a fine conclave, so why not plan to go? 🐟

The Six Types Of Flats Boats

By: Eliot Tucker



Last month we spoke about flat and V-bottomed aluminum boats. The third type of boat used by flats fishermen on the Texas coast is the jet boat. This is basically a flat bottom john boat modified so that it has a tunnel at the rear. This tunnel is essential for proper operation of the jet drive. The jet drive is an attachment to an outboard that removes the propeller and functions by sucking water up and "jetting" it out the back of the unit. This gives the boat even more shallow water capability than a prop-driven aluminium boat. It may also make the boat useful for duck hunting in spots where a prop-driven john boat could not go.

However, I do not consider this a particularly good choice for a fishing boat because a jet boat will cavitate substantially if there is much chop on the water. Furthermore, there is frequently a problem with shells being sucked into the unit and becoming jammed. Also, you need a larger outboard because you lose 30 to 50% of your power when you convert an outboard to a jet drive. The advantage of a jet drive is extreme shallow water capability. They also tend to be faster than john boats because people put bigger engines on them.

The fourth type of boat used by flats fishermen on the Texas Coast is the scooter. This is a wooden or fiberglass boat that has the outboard mounted in a tunnel at the rear of the boat. This provides shallow water capability. In reasonably calm water scooters can run very fast.

I do not have much experience with scooters but it is my understanding that they handle rough water very poorly. Scooters have clean open decks that provide excellent casting platforms if you do not take much gear. They do not have much, if any, storage capacity. (Next month Eliot Tucker talks about the Port Aransas skiff and the Florida Keys skiff.)

Book Reviews

By: John Hannah

THE ULTIMATE FISHING BOOK, Edited by Lee Eisenberg and Decourcy Taylor, Houghton Mifflin Company.

My sister gave me this book and so I don't know how much it costs. It looks very expensive, which I'm sure was the desire of the publishers. They would like for every fisherman to have it on display on his coffee table.

The editors, Eisenberg and Taylor, work for Esquire and Gray's Sporting Journal, respectively, and they have produced a volume as handsome as Gray's.

I think that the best piece of writing in the book (and I confess, I haven't read every article) is by John Graves. He writes of an incident while he was fishing for white bass on the Brazos River. Graves, who was on the faculty of Rice University, has had a lifelong love affair with the Brazos and he has taught his fellow Texans to appreciate our own rivers.

There is a long, biographical article by Ernest Schwiebert about opening days. It is against the law to assemble a fishing anthology without asking Schwiebert to contribute. Then there are articles by seven other well known outdoor writers.

The UFB also contains a great deal of art, maybe as much art as text. I won't presume to comment on the art; only a couple of the artists in the book are familiar to me. But I did notice the absence of any of John Cowan's work. And there are photos, drawings, and cartoons of historic interest.

The format of The UFB, that of the fishing year, has been used twice before: by Haig-Brown in A River Never Sleeps and by John Raymond in The Year Of The Angler. And it's getting a little old.

Fishing News

As their trip to Ireland was drawing to a close, John Hannah and Charlie Thanheiser had only one complaint. They liked the people, the countryside, the lakes and streams, the prices, and the number of trout that had fallen to their dry flies. The one disappointment was the size of the fish.

Then John corrected that flaw on the Corrib River in the city limits of Gallway. With people watching from downtown bridges, John hooked, fought, and landed a nine-pound Atlantic salmon. The fish took a Thanheiser-tied fly and thus it was a team effort; as was the cooking and eating of said salmon.

Andy Tripoli, Roger Rowe, and Mitch Whitney spent a late-May weekend at Port Aransas and saw no redbfish on the flats. Some Sheeps-head were spotted, but they refused to cooperate. Roger has installed a poling platform on his boat, and Andy did so much poling, he now considers himself Polish.

Andy has found some fine flats fishing much closer to home. Early in May, he used a shrimp-imitation fly to catch some nice reds and flounder in East Galveston Bay. Andy will be glad to give directions to this handy spot.

Al Lasher and Dan Edwards are at it again. You will recall last month's report on Dan cutting-off the stringer in the outboard prop. He has since bought an expensive, metal stringer, with snaps. To make amends, he agreed to string Al's catch while they fished a private lake north of town. Al landed two fine bass and handed them over to Dan. Apparently, Dan forgot to snap the snaps properly. Yes, both bass escaped. Al says he has heard of catch-and-release, but this is ridiculous.

Chris Phillips, who has won some and lost some with Florida tarpon, scored a knockout on a trip in May. Using a seven-weight outfit and simulator flies (salt-water muddlers tied by Mitch Whitney and available at Orvis and the Saltwater Sportsman) Chris landed six tarpon to 20 pounds and one 25-pounder, plus a good-sized shark.

Then he switched to his heavy outfit and larger flies and boated an 80 pound tarpon, a 70-pounder, and four 60-pounders. He lost one that would push 140 pounds. Chris says his Sage graphite 2 rod was sensational. At this writing he has gone back to Florida for another bout with the silver kings of the Keys.

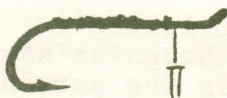
Call your Fishing News to Ken Jacoby, 999-6669 (o), 409/273-2991 (h).



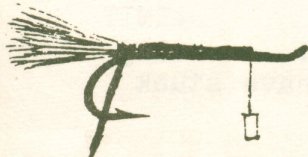
FIT TO BE TYED

Rumor has been heard about that certain of our members will be heading to the Pacific Coast to try their luck on those summer run Steelhead. Believe me, they are elusive but, should you be fortunate enough to "stick" one, hang on! You're in for one helluva battle. Powerful, tenacious, determined and resourceful are the adjectives applicable to these anadromous rainbows. When your backing is showing mighty thin they'll turn and run right at you under full throttle. It's virtually impossible to strip in line fast enough to keep tension on his (or her) jaw. Even the euphemistically called "half pounders" can get into your backing. Here are a couple of patterns I suggest you have in your fly box. While these are wet flies don't be afraid to dress up some large dry fly patterns such as the White Wulff. Gray Wulff, Royal Coachman, Irresistible and such tied on low water salmon irons in sizes 6, 8 and 10.

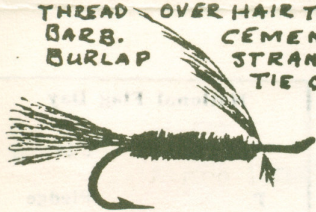
BURLAP



ATTACH THREAD 1/4 DISTANCE FROM EYE TO BEND. WIND TO BEND THEN BACK TO STARTING POINT. CEMENT. CUT, CLEAN & STACK SMALL CLUMP (ABOUT THE SIZE OF A MATCH STICK) NATURAL DEER BODY HAIR.



TIE IN DEER HAIR BUTTS WHERE SHANK WRAPPING ENDS. TIPS SHOULD EXTEND A TAB LONGER THAN THE GAPE. KEEP HAIR ON TOP OF HOOK. WIND THREAD OVER HAIR TO POINT ABOVE BARB. CEMENT. TIE IN BURLAP STRAND, WIND FORWARD TIE OFF. CEMENT.



FOLD GRIZZLY HACKLE. TIE IN BY THE TIP. WRAP 3 OR 4 TURNS. TIE OFF. CEMENT. WHIP FINISH NEAT, WELL TAPERED HEAD. CEMENT.



MATERIALS

BURLAP

HOOK - MUSTAD 36890
 SIZE - 4, 6, 8, 10
 BODY - 1 STRAND BURLAP
 TAIL - DUN DEER BODY HAIR
 HACKLE - GRIZZLY
 THREAD - BLACK - 3/0

PURPLE PERIL

HOOK - MUSTAD 36890
 SIZE - 4, 6, 8, 10
 THREAD - BLACK 3/0
 BODY - PURPLE WOOL YARN
 TAIL - PURPLE HACKLE TIP
 TINSEL - SILVER, MEDIUM OVAL
 HACKLE - PURPLE
 WING - NATURAL ELK BODY HAIR

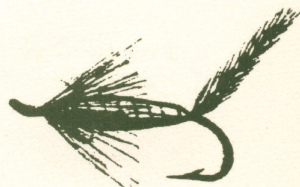
PURPLE PERIL



ATTACH THREAD 1/4 TH DISTANCE FROM EYE TO BEND. WIND TO BEND. TIE IN BODY YARN, & TINSEL. THEN TIE IN TAIL. TAIL LENGTH TWICE GAPE. COCK TAIL WITH 2 TURNS OF THREAD BEHIND HACKLE. WIND BODY YARN FORWARD IN NEAT TAPER. TIE OFF. CEMENT.



TAKE ONE TURN OF TINSEL BEHIND TAIL & WIND FORWARD IN A NEAT SPIRAL TO END OF BODY. TIE OFF. CEMENT. FOLD HACKLE & TIE IN BY TIP, WRAP 3 TURNS, TIE OFF & CEMENT.



CUT, CLEAN & STACK SMALL CLUMP (THE SIZE OF A MATCH STICK) ELK BODY HAIR, EXTEND TO HOOK BEND. TIE IN ON TOP OF HOOK. CEMENT. WHIP FINISH - NEAT WELL TAPERED HEAD. CEMENT.



Indian Head Country

The drinking water in roadside parks in Wisconsin's Indian Head Country comes not from drinking fountains, but from old-fashioned hand pumps. Your pumping is rewarded with Wisconsin well water - cold, crisp, metallic, and delicious. For the visitor from Houston, whose tap water does not bear thinking about, this is a special treat.

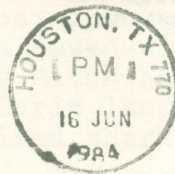
Indian Head Country? That's northwestern Wisconsin. Look at a map and you'll see why the name. It's a land of lakes and rivers, pines and hardwoods, Germans and Swedes, muskies and trout. It's a place for uncrowded fishing on streams like the Brule and the Namekagon.

Ernest Schwiebert's story, "Night Comes To The Namekagon," says that anglers in northern Wisconsin are so obsessed with muskies and walleyes that trout fishing is ignored. It's true. You can have these great streams, which are low and clear even in early season, much to yourself.

On a warm May afternoon, a fellow is seated on a small island in the Namekagon, his waded feet dangling in the water. Although he has 20 feet of line out and a weighted stonefly nymph hanging in the current below, he is only pretending to fish. What he is really doing is drinking a can of Leinenkugel beer, which has been cooling in the stream.

The rod is nearly jerked from his hand. A heavy brown trout races to the middle of the pool, then comes out of the water in a twisting leap. The angler jumps to his feet, drops his beer, stumbles, and tries to strip line as the fish heads toward him. The trout reaches some grass at the foot of the island, and gets off.

The man sits down, shaken. That was a big one. Damn! A really big one. He looks at the empty beer can. Guess I should have stuck to drinking water. Up here in Indian Head Country.



RIZZOLO, ED, M.D.
7620 BELLFORT
HOUSTON, TX 77061