

WIND KNOTS

JUNE 1988

June Meeting

DATE June 28, 1988

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

TIME ... 7:00 **FIT TO BE TYED**
"The Fluttering Caddis"

7:30 **MAIN PROGRAM**
(To Be Announced)

May Meeting

John Scarborough, coming to the end of the line as president/czar of this club, showed he still has lots of juice left as he deftly directed an entertaining meeting attended by 101 people. Business included the confirmation of the executive committee's recommendation that the club donate \$1,000 to the Federation of Fly Fishers for shingles for the headquarters roof, \$500 to GCCA, and \$300 to the Clear Clean Colorado. The main program featured the excellent video, "The Essence of Fly Casting" by the great Mel Krieger.

Fly - Tying

The next intermediate lesson will be held at St. John's Church at 7:00 in room 010 on Thursday, July 14th. St. John's is located at River Oaks and Westheimer. You need not make reservations. Just come along and be prepared to learn from the great teachers Ed Rizzolo has scheduled.

If you are interested in our super-popular beginner's classes, which begin in January, now is the time to register. Call Ed now. These classes, of limited size, fill up very early. A reminder to those members who still have club tying equipment from the last beginner's sessions, return it to Ed at the monthly club meeting or take it to the Angler's Edge shop.

Club Election

The election of club officers will be held at the June meeting for a one year term of office beginning July 1, 1988. Nominations will be taken from the floor. The nominating committee has proposed the following slate:

President
Wright Guthrie
Vice President
Paul Akscyn
Treasurer
Jim Bridges
Secretary
Mark Hollier

Temp Deaver, who had agreed to serve again as treasurer, has time constraints which will not allow him to do so. The committee feels fortunate to have Jim Bridges as Temp's proposed replacement. Temp has done a wonderful job in this demanding position.

Fishing News

Jim Bridges - the annual favorite in our morning line on the Sunfish Spectacular because he is just as captivated by perch as John Scarborough and just as dishonest too - had a fine day in early June at Valley Lodge. A good number of sunfish to nine inches were landed by Jim and his guest, Ryan Keebler, a dedicated fly fisher who has passed his 72nd birth-

day, but who stoutly maintains that he looks much older than he really is.

* * *

It was a case of culture shock going both ways as Charlie Thanheiser, Bill Baker, Anno Breitenfeldt, Tony Woods, Paul Akscyn,

Continued on page 3

The Conservation Corner

by: Cameron Armstrong

DREDGING SPOILED; THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL Part 2

(Last month Cameron detailed "improvements" to the Houston Ship Channel proposed by the Corps of Engineers)

The issue that has brought the numerous public and government groups into opposition to HG-50 is the question of environmental damage. While the much-debated possibility of increased saltwater intrusion into the Bay continues to foment discussion, it is the disposal and toxicity of the dredge spoil that now generates most concern. The Corps of Engineers claims that they will bury only a small proportion of the existing oyster beds and that the overall turbidity of the bay will not significantly increase.

Oystermen and U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USF&W) scientists have stated, however, that the combination of spoil disposal and saltwater intrusion expected under HG-50 will reduce the oyster harvest by 60 to 80%. The Corps' proposal to create artificial "replacement" beds has been greeted with skepticism since Galveston Bay dredge spoil has yet to support life. Finally, the Environmental Impact Statement accompanying the GBANS did not analyze or address existing Texas Water Commission or NOAA data on Bay turbidity.

Looming even larger than possible oyster losses is the danger from pollutants now "stabilized" in the channel's bottom. High concentrations of many modern industrial compounds have been confirmed in the approximately

sixty-nine million cubic yards of bay bottom to be relocated. These heavy metals (lead, cadmium, etc.) and various toxic "aromatic hydrocarbonates" are now only tenuously bonded to particles of mud and sand. If stirred up, via dredging and the proposed open bay spoil disposal, they will almost certainly enter the diets of shrimp, flounders and other fish. The direct annual value of Galveston Bay's fisheries, now estimated by USF&W at more than \$800,000, would wither as eating the fish became a serious health hazard.

The opposition stirred up by the proposed HSC dredging now include virtually every state and federal agency charged with conserving or protecting the environment, in addition to conservation and sport organizations.

These groups are calling for not only a review of the HSC project, but a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Study of the cumulative impacts of all the projects now planned for Galveston Bay. These projects, which include the Wallisville Reservoir, The Texas City Ship Channel, expanding the Intra-Coastal Waterway, and the dredging of the Trinity Bay channel to Liberty, together could constitute a fatal threat to the Bay's fisheries.

LOOSE HOOKS

The editorial policy of this newsletter is that we do not reprint material by outside authors from other publications (except for occasional short quotes). What you read here is written by members of this club. Every staffer listed on the back page of this bulletin has made us proud by the quality of his work. We were

thinking of this as we read Cameron Armstrong's two-part article on the Ship Channel. We're proud of that article.

If you're interested in small-group casting lessons using a proven technique, you might investigate the Sage Casting School to be held at The Angler's Edge on July 16th. There are two sessions to choose from. The cost is \$30.00. Call Brooks Bouldin or Steve Wright at the shop for information.

Tying Tips

by: Mitch Whitney

For this month's special deal we are giving you two tips for the price of one from Norm Crook, who is a good bargain any time.

Floss bodies darken when wet. They're even darker if the floss is applied over a black tying thread. Try using a white tying thread for an underbody. The floss won't darken nearly as much.

If too much tension is used when winding ribbing of round or oval tinsel the tinsel will separate from its core. This is not noticeable on a fuzzy body but it's godawful on a flat tinsel body. To avoid that unmentionable look, put a dollup of head cement (I prefer bug glaze) on your index finger. Run about a yard of the round or oval tinsel between your thumb and index finger, coating the material well with the head cement and let dry. The tinsel will be bonded to the core. It will stay bright and won't easily be frayed by sharp teeth.

Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook

On The Salty Side



by: **Eliot Tucker**

Eliot is on vacation. His very popular column will return to this space next month.

Fishing News (cont'd.)

and Ken Jacoby invaded the cradle of American fly fishing in early June. This rugged group braved heavy rains, crowds, New York accents, and erratic and autocratic leadership by that stubborn Teuton, Charle Thanheiser, as they fished the Beaverkill and Willowemoc Rivers in the Catskills on a trip arranged by Ted Houghton, who then refused to go along.

Somewhat surprisingly, a great time was had by all. The area and the streams were beautiful, everyone caught fish on dry flies, and the fellowship was outstanding.

Tony Woods, who is no slave to orthodoxy, explained his success on the final evening by saying that he stopped his forward cast at the top, allowing his caddis imitation to drift slowly downward through the air. He felt that the fish were looking up and would circle under his offering like the Astro outfield under a high pop fly, with presumably the closest fish calling - "I got it!" You can't argue with the results: ten nice fish from the Willowemoc in front of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center.

Lee Pinion was working his Wooly Booger through one of the lakes at Valley Lodge in early June when the line went solid against something much larger than the sunfish that are the usual quarry in that spot. After a slashing battle, Lee landed a fine bass that weighed an even three pounds, not on eyeball measurement, but on actual scales.

It is a testament to Mr. Pinion's earlier transgressions that he felt it necessary, when telling of this catch, to assure listeners several times that he did indeed catch this fish on a fly.

* * *

Andy Tripoli enjoyed a couple of diverse fly fishing trips recently, one to the Rio Grande River in the Box in New Mexico and the other to Rockport for flats action. He took rainbows on caddis and ant imitations on the Rio Grande and specks on yellow poppers on the coast, and if forced to make a choice on the two trips, he would select the saltwater option because it did not end with a lung-busting, high altitude climb out of a box canyon.

* * *

Call in your fishing news to Ken Jacoby at 873-6210 (o) or 409-273-2991 (h).

Letters To The Editor

Sir:

I took time out from chasing redfish to compete in the Sunfish Spectacular this year for the first time, and, though it was swell and I won, I do have a few modest suggestions for future events I would like to share with you and readers of *WIND KNOTS*:

1. Let's get the beer barrel working by first light. Perch jerking is thirsty business and there's no point in doing without an early quaff.

2. Kindly schedule next year's outing on a day it doesn't rain.

3. Perhaps, unless the tournament directors think it would diminish the fun of suprise, some mention should be made, if only in passing, of the nine foot alligator in the deeper lake. Could be of some interest to naturalists, float tubers and others who dangle their particulars.

4. While on subjects reptilian, you might remind gentle readers that the slender brown snakes may even be harmless. The fat black surly ones surely are not. One hissed white-mouthed at me, causing me to stumble, drop, then step on my little bamboo five-weight. Rendering it unfishable. Me too 'till my heart slowed down to about 200 b.p.m.

5. When *WIND KNOTS* warned that "if you want to be treated fairly, stay home," I didn't realize it referred to prizes. As the champion I received a small (and very ugly) dried fish nailed to a block of wood. Others who caught finny creatures far less majestic won prizes of some actual cash value.

Despite the slight, the fright, the drenching and lack of quenching at dawn's early light I'll be back next year to defend my honor. Unless I hear there are redfish on the flats. Or the alligator has reached double digit length.

Sincerely,

Corey Rich

Dear Mr. Rich:

Thank you for your letter. We couldn't agree more that the Sunfish Spectacular is disgusting and degrading. Glad you had a good time.

The Editor

For Sale

Gene Doggett is offering a 9 foot Kennedy Fisher rod in 8/9 weight along with an Orvis Presentation V (fresh and saltwater) model reel. Two lines, floating and shooting, are included in this bargain package, which is priced at \$395.00. This outfit is perfect for bass bugging and saltwater flats work. Call Gene at 783-8523 (h).

Book Reviews



by: John Hannah

THE FIELD AND STREAM TREASURY OF TROUT FISHING.
Edited by Leonard M. Wright, jr.
Nick Lyons Books. Winchester Press.

FIELD AND STREAM has probably been the most successful sporting magazine in this century and in this language.

Over its ninety-odd years its by-lines have included most of the best American angling-writing names and this book is a representative sampling of their works. Among the "treasures" are Edward R. Hewitt's 1933 treatise on midge and nymph fishing; Preston Jennings' history of the dry fly written in 1938; a story by Eugene V. Connett, 3rd, founder of the Derrydale Press; Roderick Haig-Brown's paean to the cut-throat trout of his beloved north-west country; and Lee Wulff's account of his casting for and landing an Atlantic salmon without benefit of fly rod. Also included are works of Ray Bergman, Zane Grey, Arnold Gingrich, Ernie Schwiebert, Robert Traver, Corey Ford, Peter Kaminsky, and, of course, A. J. McClane. And there are dozens more; a mix of didactics, essays, memoirs, and fiction.

There are some nuggets of wisdom in these pages. Peter Barrett, in his 1971 article, observes that there are "damn few wild brookies left in the East now" and then proceeds to catch and kill some. M. P. Keefe credits the turn-of-the-

century angling authority Dr. James H. Henshall with this revelation: if trout are not rising one explanation might be that there are none in the river. Henshall doesn't remember anyone ever having alluded to that subject. That was in 1907, and many of the pre-World War I articles can only be described as quaint. They contain adjectives like "bully" and "vexing."

I don't read *FIELD AND STREAM* much any more: I can't find my way through all of the color ads for OTR vehicles and the editorials defending the constitutional rights of Saturday night specials. I do, however, invariably read Ed Zern's "Exit Laughing" column when I run across a copy of the magazine in a waiting room. He still turns out his outrageous nonsense. I'm proud to be a member in, as my certificate states, "reasonably good standing" of his Madison Avenue Rod, Gun, Bloody Mary, and Labrador Retriever Benevolent Association. A zern opus about worm fishing is included in this anthology.

Editor's note: *WIND KNOTS* readers will be interested to know that our book reviewer has himself written several articles for *FIELD AND STREAM*. You would think that, inasmuch as the articles were written FOR the magazine, the least *F&S* could have done would have been to accept them.

For Sale

Andy Tripoli is having an angler's garage sale. He has a Sigma electric motor, with three speed forward and reverse, hand controls, 30 pounds of thrust, and only 20 minutes of total time used. \$100.00 buys this motor and some boating equipment.

Andy also has a Caddis Deluxe belly boat and a set of forward fins, both used once, on sale for \$60.00. Call Andy at the office, 439-0900.

The Federation

by: Herb Penning

The Federation is in need of fix up/spruce up dollars that will act as preventive maintenance. The grounds around the main building are reaching completion. The newly dedicated casting pool has been finished, but there are many shingles that are needed to finish the roof on the main building.

If like me, you are very protective about the storage of your fly fishing treasures, why not make a donation to the Federation for shingles? And if, heaven forbid, you are not a Federation member, your best gift to all of us is to join our parent organization. Do it now!

The Prez Sez



by: John Scarborough

Next month will be my last time in this space and I'll say my goodbyes then, but I can't wait till then to indicate my gratitude to all of you great people for the help and kindness you have shown me during my term as president. It's tough to find the right words, but I think you know how I feel.

Fit To Be Tied



by

Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook

The Fluttering Caddis

Leonard M. Wright, Jr. was well aware of the importance of the caddis as a food item in the trout's diet. He had observed many fluttering across the surface of both pond and pocket water depositing their eggs in the water or skittering across it preparatory to taking flight. Invariably during these times, the insect became the target of a hungry trout. How was it possible to imitate the antics of these creatures and incite a fish's strike? He tied up numerous wet fly leaders with one and two droppers using a wet fly caddis on the point as well as on the droppers. The point was used to create tension as was the secondary in a two dropper rig. The near fly was dapped and danced on the water. Many other combinations were used, all with the same success ratio - negligible!

After much experimentation, success was achieved. It turned out to be a combination of a uniquely tied dry fly caddis and what Wright calls the "sudden inch" which is a twitch of the rod tip that causes the fly to skitter up stream an inch or two simulating the action of a live caddis. Trout were now taking Wright's offerings with regularity. I have used the "Fluttering Caddis" and the "sudden inch" retrieve with success. The best fish taken was a 19-5/8" male brown.

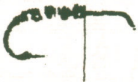
For materials use Mustad hook 94833 or 94845 sizes 14 or 16; brown or black 6/0 thread; cock pheasant tail; brown, gray or olive dry fly cape; and fine gold wire.



1. Attach thread above hook point. Wind back until above barb. Tie in two fibers from a cock pheasant tail. Tie in gold wire.



2. Wind thread forward to a point about 2-1/2 eye diameters back from the eye. Coat thread lightly with thin head cement. Wipe off excess. Wind the two tail fibers forward together until you reach the tying thread. Tie off the fibers and snip off the fiber butts.



3. In the opposite direction to which the tail fibers were wound, wind the gold wire in a spiral forward to lock down the delicate pheasant tail fibers. Tie off the wire at the point you tied off the pheasant fibers. Do not cut the wire! Bend it back and forth until it breaks. The short burr at the end of the wire will prevent it from pulling out.



4. Wind the tying thread in a close spiral to the eye and back to the herl butts. This is the wing base. From a spade or shoulder hackle, strip about 3/4" of fine, stiff hackles. Tie these on top of the hook so they extend from the tie in point to the tips more than twice the hook shank length. Trim the butts.



5. Strip a similar 3/4" of hackle fibers and tie them in on the far side of the hook.



6. Strip and tie in a similar clump of hackle fiber. Tie them in on the near side of the hook.



7. Now, prepare and tie in two hackles whose fibers are 1-1/2 times the hook gape. Tie them in, concave side forward. Clip off the butts.



8. Wind the first hackle forward and tie off behind the eye. Leave enough room for a neat head. Wind the second hackle through the first. Weave it in and out so as not to mash down any fibers from the first hackle. Tie off. Snip off tips and whip finish a neat head. Cement and you are all done. Or is it dun?

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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TFF EVENTS CALENDAR

WHEN & WHO

WHAT

WHERE

June 28 - 7:00 p.m.	Club Meeting	The Travelodge Tower
July 14	Intermediate Fly Tying	St. John's Church
July 16 <i>Jimmy Nix and Brooks Bouldin</i>	Sage Casting School Fee: \$30.00	The Angler's Edge 8450 Westpark #103
July 26 - 7:00 p.m.	Club Meeting	The Travelodge Tower
August 8 - 13	FFF Conclave	Livingston, Montana
August 11	Intermediate Fly Tying	St. John's Church
November 12	Club Diner	Sonny Look's

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Address correction requested