

WIND KNOTS

MARCH 1988

March Meeting

DATE March 29, 1988

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

TIME ... 7:00 **FIT TO BE TYED**
"Bob's Baby Doll"

7:30 **MAIN PROGRAM**
Harry Lane, Pro Guide,
Farmington, N. Mex.,
"Fishing the Delores
and San Juan Rivers of
Colorado"

February Meeting

The business portion of the meeting was conducted by Wright Guthrie and concerned primarily the auction. Brooks Bouldin spoke about some future club plans.

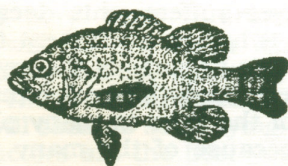
The main program featured Dave Hayward and Joe Doggett on the subject of fly-fishing at Christmas Island. Their commentary and photography were superb and a large crowd of 95 members really enjoyed themselves. Dave and Joe put on as good a program as this club has ever witnessed.

The Sunfish Spectacular

It is, unfortunately, again time for this annual foolishness, slated for **April 16th** at **Valley Lodge** (Highway 1093 west of Fulshear). New members should be warned that this fishing contest, the pride and joy of our Fearless Leader, is designed to appeal to the baser instincts of club members. Not only is cheating *allowed*, it is *encouraged*.

The rules will again be made-up as he goes along by Mr. Scarborough, so you can imagine what chance you have of winning. The FL recently revealed a preview of one of the rules: "It will be fly-fishing only, but worms and bobbers *can* be used." This reminds us of two years ago, when a lynch-minded mob of contestants made Mr. S return the prize rod after he declared himself the winner on a technicality.

The entry fee will be \$10.00 per person, with kids under 15 free. This will include prizes, lunch, and drinks. Call and register before April 13th at The Angler's Edge 266-4493, or Orvis 783-2111. The weigh-in and awards ceremony will be at 4:00. **Remember, if you want to be treated fairly, stay home.**



The Club Auction

A record crowd of TFFers jammed the Bavarian Gardens Restaurant on Saturday, March 5th. When auctioneers Norm Crook and Herb Penning banged the gavel on the last item, our club's coffers were enlarged by **\$6,400**, also a new record.

Since the auction is the most important event of the year for our club, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Chairman Charlie Weems and his wonderful crew. Jim Dailey was an energetic spotter for the two auctioneers. The fly-tyers were Judy Lehmborg, Mitch Whitney, and Charlie Thanheiser, and what more could you possibly say about that? Lee Pinion, Steve Wright, Lea Weems, and Temp (The Belize Bandit) Deaver took the money and kept the records. Mark Hollier, Ralph Hutzler, Paul Akscyn and John Scarborough secured donations. The telephone committee again did a fine job.

Charlie Weems wants to salute all of the above people, and also the more than 100 TFFers who contributed, attended, and bought items. Charlie reports that countless German sausages were consumed and 51 pitchers of beer were quaffed.

AGAIN, THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED AND MADE THE TFF AUCTION A GREAT SUCCESS!

TEXAS FLYFISHERS - HOUSTON, TEXAS

The Conservation Corner

by: Cameron Armstrong

Wallisville Update

Wallisville Reservoir, the Army Corps of Engineers' proposal to dam the mouth of the Trinity River, remains an issue of vital concern to sportsmen throughout the Galveston Bay area. Originally proposed about twenty years ago to limit upriver salinity, it is now part of one of the alternatives for the new Houston Water Master Plan under consideration by City Council. To its sponsors, the City of Houston and the Trinity River Authority, the project is simply a source of water for drinking and irrigation. To its opponents, it is a dire threat to the complex ecology/economy of the Bay. Some have called it a wasteful boondoggle.

To understand the Wallisville issue, it is important to consider the life cycles of Galveston Bay's major fisheries -- shrimp, croakers (redfish, trout et al.) flounder, etc. Virtually all of these species spawn in the Gulf, spend several years in the shallow, brackish waters of the "inner" bays and, with maturity, gradually inhabit deeper and deeper waters. In addition, adults of most of the sports fishes migrate during the year between the bays and the gulf. Since the Trinity River provides most of the fresh water and nutrients for the brackish ecologies necessary to the bay's young fish, the dam would greatly reduce the numbers and types of fish the bay could support. Some marine biologists have described this reduction as potentially "catastrophic."

Despite considerable delays in the selection of the final Water Master Plan alternative, a decision on the dam can be expected this year. Although \$500,000 was appropriated by Congress for expenditure this year on Wallisville, the administration has

stated that funding will not be sought for it next year. Houston will therefore have to pay not 10% as originally expected, but 100%. Meanwhile, the dam's detractors, who now include U. S. Fish & Wildlife, Texas' Attorney General, and numerous sports and environmental groups (GCCA, Sierra, etc.), have helped generate a huge groundswell of public opposition which may, by itself, kill the project. There will be two events of importance this Spring: release of both the Water Commission's report on its hearings of November on "de-certifying" the project and the City of Houston Public Works Department's final recommendations on the water plan. Stay tuned for further developments.

LOOSE HOOKS

Bev Edwards will be guiding a canoe trip on the Colorado River on May 14th. Call Paul Akscyn for details. The Colorado is reported to be in excellent shape for fishing at this writing.

Speaking of the Colorado River, John Scarborough reminds us that the battle to clean up this major Texas waterway is still being waged by Robert McCurdy and the conservation organization called the Clear Clean Colorado. This organization deserves the support of all of us. To join, send your contribution of \$10.00 or more to: CCC, 802 Rutherford Place, Austin, Tx. 78704.

Robert says it best in their newsletter: "Because the Colorado River suffers, this does not mean it has no enjoyment to offer. It is because of the mystery and revelation that still remain a part of the river in many places and because of the many quiet times in a canoe during which I've been fascinated, that I have tried

in what ways I could to prevent degradations to the Colorado River."

Back Casts

Female Adams in a Female Scalp

Marilyn was standing beside her husband Lorenzo, who was casting to a distant rise. During a wayward cast, his size 10 hook pierced Marilyn's scalp. Lorenzo cut the leader about a foot from the fly and took his wife to the doctor to have the hook removed.

In the treatment room, the doctor asked Marilyn, "All right, now. Where is the hook?" RIDDLE: What did Marilyn reply? For the answer, see the bottom of this page.

John T. Hannah

Wind Knots July 21, 1978

Tying Tips

by: Mitch Whitney

When you are finishing-off the head of a fly and applying head cement, it is common to fill the eye of the hook with the head cement. Most people will use a bodkin to clean out the eye, but this often leaves enough of the head cement in the eye to cause problems when tying the fly to the leader.

The best eye cleaner I have found is an old saddle hackle or saddle hackle tip. The stem on the saddle hackle is thin enough to go through the eye of the smallest hook. Simply insert the butt end of the hackle into the eye and push through until you can grab the stem from underneath and finish pulling through. This completely cleans the eye and you won't have any problem tying your flies to your leader.

Answer to riddle: Marilyn told the doctor: "Just follow the leader."

On The Salty Side



by: **Eliot Tucker**

Recipes

Catch and release is a concept that has application in any water.

There are very few situations where one is required to keep a fish. On the other hand, Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists have determined that if you have your Texas fishing license and saltwater stamp you can keep five redfish between 18 and 30 inches long and ten speckled trout 14 inches or larger without damaging the resource. If you should be so fortunate as to catch some reds or trout on a fly, these three recipes will insure that you and your friends enjoy the fish you keep.

Eat as many as you can fresh. If you have to freeze fish, put it in a baggy, cover the fish with water, sprinkle in a liberal amount of salt, swish it around, seal it and freeze it. Handled this way, fish will last much longer and taste much better when thawed for cooking.

Incidentally, do not try these recipes on fish caught on spoons or bait. These are for fly-caught fish only.

Marinated and Smoked Redfish

- 1) Redfish fillet with the skin and scales left on
- 2) Morton's Nature's Seasoning

- 3) Olive Oil
- 4) Butter
- 5) Limes

For three hours, marinate the fillet in olive oil into which you have shaken a healthy portion of Morton's Nature's Seasoning.

Place the fillet, skin and scales side down, on a grill. Mesquite wood on the coals makes great smoke. Do not place directly over the coals. You want the fish to cook slowly so it will not dry out. Baste liberally with a basting sauce of 1/2 butter and 1/2 lime juice several times during the cooking. Do not turn the fish. A fillet from a six pound red might take 45 minutes to cook, probably less. When the fish is white and flakey, it is done.

Do not cut or slice the fish. Simply scrape it off the skin with a spatula, and serve.

(Next month: Pescado al Mojo de Ajo and Trout or Redfish Meuniere.)

Fly - Tying

Ed Rizzolo reminds us that the intermediate lessons are about to begin. They run the second Thursday of the month, beginning April 14th and lasting for six months. You needn't register. Just go to St. John's Church at 7:00 in room 010. The April 14th class will be taught by Norm Crook and Charlie Thanheiser on the subject of steelhead and hair-wing salmon flies.

The May 12th intermediate class will feature Mitch Whitney on his speciality, spinning deer hair. These are hands-on classes. You will each do some tying. The instructors are the best you will find anywhere. We'll see you on April 14th.

Ed reports that the beginners lessons were again a success this year. An eager group of students learned the basics. This club is proud of our tying classes, our instructors, and our students.

Orvis To Sponsor Mini-Conclave

On Saturday, April 23rd, Orvis Houston will sponsor a full day of programs and seminars on fly-casting, tying techniques, and places to go. Here is the tentative program:

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Hands-on group casting clinic (Gear supplied by Orvis. Meet at the store at 7:45a.m.)

10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Introduction to Fly Fishing (slide show).

10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fly-tying (Mitch Whitney, Norm Crook, Judy Lehmborg, Tex Brockett, and Mark Hollier).

11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Frontiers slide show. "Fly Fishing Around the World" (Chris Child).

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"Fly Fishing the Texas Coast" (Sam Carpenter).

2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Fly-casting demonstration (The Orvis Staff).

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Repeat of Frontiers slide show.

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Repeat of Sam Carpenter's program.

5:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Drawing for Orvis goodies and question and answer session.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day. Guides from Shallowwater Guide Service, Lakes of Danbury, and other outfitters will attend. Call Dave at 783-2111 for details.

Book Reviews



by: **John Hannah**

Night Fishing for Trout, The Final Frontier, by Jim Bashline. Willow Creek Press. New edition of the 1972 book.

A while back I said that I wouldn't read or write about any more "how-to" books. But, gosh, what can you do when a publisher sends you a free copy to review, just like he does to the big slick magazines? I admit to being susceptible to flattery.

Writing book reviews for Wind Knots (circ. somewhere under 250 in a good month) doesn't pay much. But it does permit a great deal of freedom. The staffs of the big fly fishing magazines have to do a lot of mutual back scratching with their fellow members of the "hook-and-bullet" press and so their reviews come out uniformly favorable. If I think a book is crummy, I can happily say so.

In the present case, however, there's no need for any Bashline bashing. This small book is a very useful resource for a certain type of fishing: after dark, probably using casts of three size-six wet flies. This, Bashline says, is a means of catching large browns, even in the streams of Pennsylvania where, I gather, lunker fish are not so common.

As do all the angling books that make authoritative statements, this one contains some assertions that good anglers would argue with. And the book is not consis-

tently a pleasure to read; Bashline admits to "droning on" at times, like a chatty tackle-shop clerk.

The author mentions that there are people who believe that hook-billed trout just can't be taken on flies and should therefore be removed from trout streams, by any method, before they devour all their progeny. Bashline has removed, and returned, many such trout, but he has done it with his Professors, Silver Doctors, and Governors.

I've always heard that big trout come out of hiding to feed in the moonlight. Not so, says Bashline. From his experience the best night fishing, for trout anyway, is just before the moon appears.

This is a nicely turned out volume: a black hard-cover with stamped gold title and trim and an inset picture of salmo trutta chasing a Silver Doctor.

Bashline is convinced that fishing at night is the way to take big fish. Now that I think about it, the largest trout I've caught came to my streamer under the Southern Cross and a dazzling Milky Way.

The Prez Sez



by: **John Scarborough**

Let me assure those complainers among you that I intend to be just as fair this year at the Sunfish Spectacular as I have been in years past.

Unfortunately, it looks as though Jimmy Swaggart will not be available to judge the weigh-in as we had hoped.

Plan to attend this year's Sunfish Spectacular. You won't win, but you'll enjoy it. I'll see all of you at Valley Lodge on April 16th.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER:

PLEASE, WE NEED MORE NEWS ITEMS FROM YOU, THE TFF CLUB MEMBERS. WE NOW HAVE SUFFICIENT SPACE TO PROVIDE AN EVEN MORE INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING NEWS LETTER, AND CAN DO SO WITH YOUR HELP.

Fishing News

Jerry Derryberry used that old standard pattern, the Mickey Finn, to catch a good number of rainbows to 12 inches from Boykin Springs in early February. Jerry says that the smaller sizes worked best, as did those with a bit of flashabou added.

Jerry also reports on some horror stories of people taking heaps of trout out of Boykin Springs, without any thought to the limit, and in some cases with the idea of selling these fish. He realizes that this is not the Henry's Fork, but still feels that if the state goes to the expense of stocking trout the fish should be given the proper protection. With this in mind, Jerry called TP&W and was told that they do not, as a policy, react to phone calls, but suggest writing to: Major David Palmer, Director, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. The TP&W phone is 1-800-792-1112.

* * * * *

Herb Penning, from his Brenham fiefdom, reports that the bass and crappie on Lake Summerville are in the shallows, at a depth of eight to 24 inches. Herb further states that there are plenty of bass in the five pound range on this often overlooked lake and that Summerville seems primed for an excellent year of fishing.

* * * * *

Jim Dailey has been enjoying wonderful speck action early in March in the Palacios area. The pattern he has been using is called a Kelley Wiggler.

* * * * *

Dave Hayward was able to sight-cast to the redfish in the gin-clear, shin-deep water of the lower Laguna Madre, but the big specks, as they often do, were coming from nowhere, ambushing the pink popper. Dave was thus not overly surprised when

the trout swirled and took his #6 Better Bug, but he was no way prepared for the reel-sizzling 40 yard run, as fast as any bonefish, that had him hanging on and hoping, and thinking that this fish was even larger than the eight-pounder he had landed the day before on a chartreuse Seaducer.

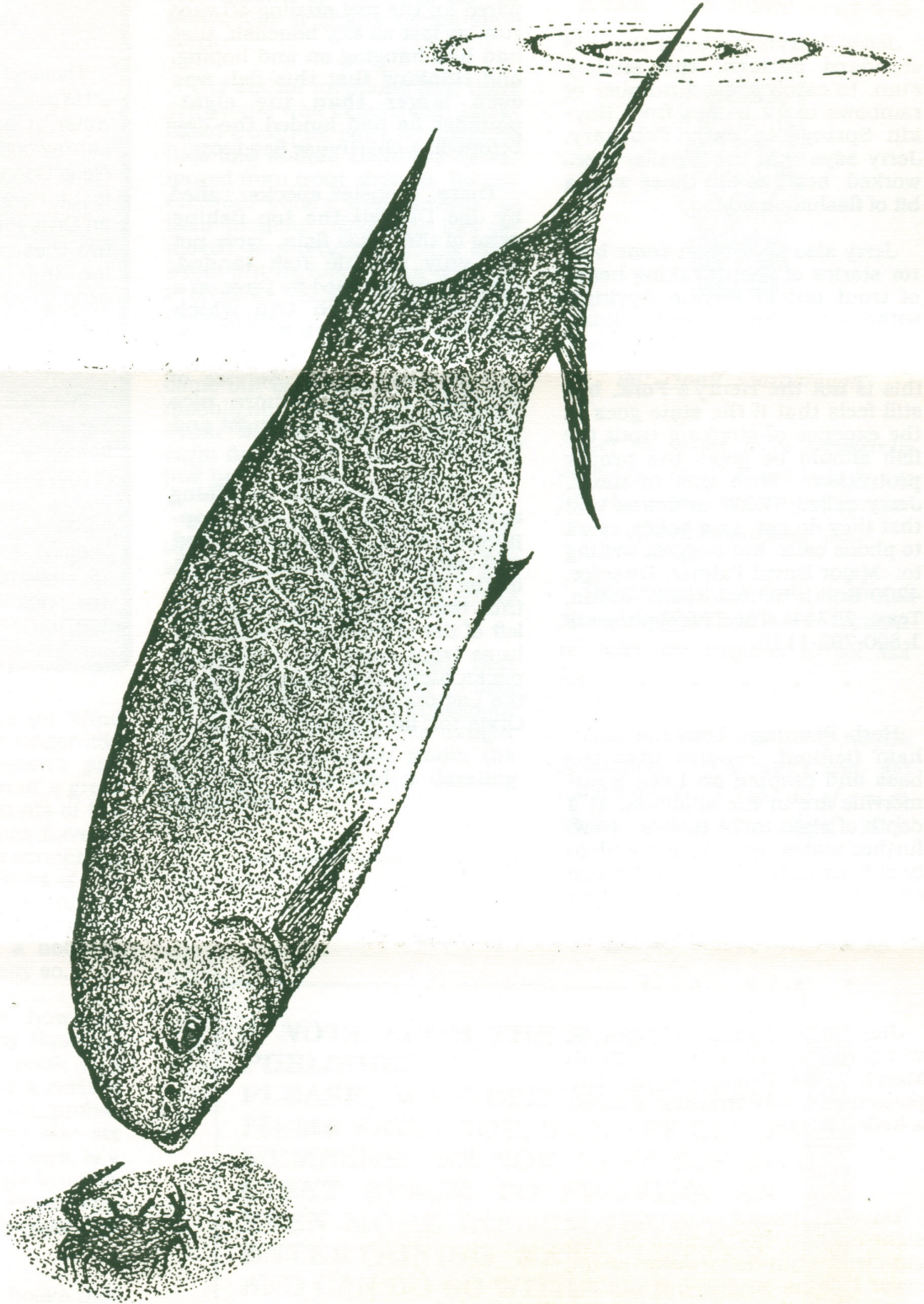
These monster specks, called by Joe Doggett the top fishing prize of the Texas flats, were not the only notable fish landed, tagged, and released by Dave on a memorable March trip which saw him fishing with Wade Dunkin and Chuck Scales of the Shallowwater Guide Service of Harlingen. Plenty more nice specks and reds were caught and released.

Wade and Chuck are fly-fishing specialists and are Orvis approved guides. They have tagged and released more than 300 fish in the last month. As you read this, there will be about a month left of the prime season when the huge trout travel like wolves in packs along the shallow flats of the Laguna Madre. Call Dave at Orvis for information.

Want Ads

Those of you who are interested in getting started in Texas salt-water or bass fishing can get a turnkey outfit at a good price from Gene Doggett, who is offering a 9 foot for 8/9 Kennedy Fisher rod, an Orvis Presentation V reel, and two lines (floating and shooting) for the excellent price of \$400.00. Just add water and you are all set. Call Gene at home at 783-8523.

We have received a call offering an Aljo Alliance Travel Trailer, complete with towing package, range, oven, microwave, full bath, and air conditioner. This trailer is completely equipped including bedding, and has been used only 10 weekends. It is ready to go. The price is \$12,000. Call 347-3067 and leave a message.



An original pen and ink drawing by Dave Hayward

Fit To Be Tied

Bob's Baby Doll Muddler

Not too long ago, one of our less timorous fly fishing brethren whose bent for creating inovative flies is exceeded only by his singular capacity for divining equally unique names, developed the subject of today's column. Some of his creations carry such names as the "Truculent Succulent", the "Baited Breath", the "Wanton Glance", and "Bob's Baby Doll Muddler." If you guessed that we're talking about Robert McCurdy, you are absolutely right. Since the bass season is now upon us we thought you might like to tie "Bob's Baby Doll." Robert refers to this as the only fly needed for taking bass. Try it, maybe you'll agree. Fish it as you would any muddler as long as you give it a swimming action, like a bait fish.

Here's what you'll need: Mustad Hook #3366 size 1/0 or 2 (a Mustad stinger hook of equivalent size is a good substitute), black monocord, 1/8" pearlescent mylar tubing, white blood marabou, black blood marabou, one red hackle, white deer body hair, 5/16" to 3/8" doll eyes and 15# hard nylon monofilament (if you want a weedless bug).



by:

Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook



1. Disbarb and sharpen hook. Insert in vise. Begin wrapping thread at bend of hook. Continue to a point about 1/3 of hook shank from eye. Reverse and wrap back to start.



2. Slip mylar tubing over eye to extend ends to hook bend. Wrap thread around ends leaving about 1/4" extending. Whip and tie off. Stretch tubing forward and retie thread at point where under-thread wraps end. Cover with head cement.



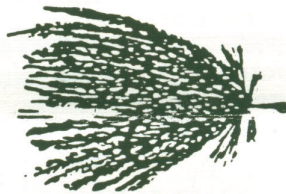
3. Tie in a clump of white marabou on the under side of the hook.



4. Tie in a clump of black marabou on top of the hook. The marabou should not be longer than 1-1/2 to 2 hook shanks in length. Cement feather ends.



5. Tie in red hackle and take 2 turns. Tie off.



5. Clip clump of white deer hair from hide. Clean, comb out under hair. Trim hair so tips will extend no further back than the hook point with butts 1/2 as long as the tips. Tie in and flair around hook shank.



7. Tie thru the butts, compact and apply cement. Tie in two more clumps of hair and compress. Tie off and cement. Trim head so it's flat on sides. Attach doll eyes with shoe goo. Set aside to dry.

WIND KNOTS is the Newsletter of The Texas FlyFishers - Houston, Texas
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TFF EVENTS CALENDAR

WHEN & WHO

WHAT

WHERE

March 29 - 7:00 p.m.
Harry Lane, Professional Guide

Club Meeting
 "Fishing the Delores and San Juan
 Rivers of Colorado"

Viscount Hotel

April 14 - 7:00 p.m.
Norm Crook and Charlie Thanheiser

Intermediate Fly Tying
 "Steelhead and Hair-Wing
 Salmon Flies"

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

April 16

Sunfish Spectacular
 and Casting Championship

Valley Lodge
 Simonton, TX

April 23 - 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Orvis Staff and Guests

Orvis Mini-Conclave

The Orvis Store
 Houston, TX

April 26 - 7:00 p.m.

Club Meeting

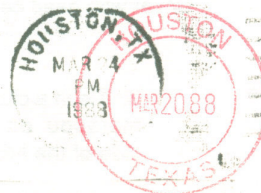
Viscount Hotel

May 12 - 7:00 p.m.

Intermediate Fly Tying

St. John's Church

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Address correction requested

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