

WIND



KNOTS

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

Editor: Ken Jacoby
Graphics: Lance Brown, Dave Hayward
Writers: Mitch Whitney, John Hannah, Eliot Tucker

November Meeting

DATE: November 29, 1983
PLACE: St. John's Episcopal Church
Room 010, Education Bldg.
River Oaks and Westheimer
TIME: 7:30 Fit to be Tied - Norm (Lack O' Hackle) Crook
8:00 Main Program - Saltwater Fly Fishing

October Meeting

President Jim Darby was at the helm and 47 people were in attendance. Jim reported on a recent meeting of Trout Unlimited, held at the Guadalupe. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been experimenting with two species of rainbows, redband and Firehole, which have a proven tolerance for warmer water. It is felt that the redband trout are the fish of the future for the Guadalupe, and 30,000 of the little rascals are at the Arkansas hatchery getting primed for a March 1984 or 1985 release.

The regular state stocking will begin in November. The good news is that there has been some carryover of the sizable rainbows put in the Guadalupe last spring. T. U. is going to augment the state stocking again this year by purchasing some good-sized trout from a private hatchery. Our club will likely contribute to this cause, and if you want to make a private contribution, see Jim Darby or Brooks Bouldin.

Brooks announced that the Kanz Lease cards will be available again this year. More information will be available at the next meeting. Brooks also gave a report on the progress of the Texas Conclave to be held the weekend of March 16th in Austin. Please note, this is a date-change from that given earlier. See page 7 of this bulletin for more information. No flyfisher will want to miss this conclave.

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Casting Contest and Picnic Results

The club casting contest and picnic were held on October 22nd. In keeping with tradition, the wind blew hard during the contest, but the 30 TFFers in attendance had a fine time. Mark Hollier won the novice-intermediate title. The championship flight produced a four-way tie between Roger Rowe, Brooks Bouldin, John Fulton, and host Dan Edwards. Roger Rowe won the cast-off and is our new club champion. Congratulations to Mark and Roger.

The disposition of the picnic was equally satisfying. All the barbeque was consumed and all the beer quaffed. As always, the best thing was the fellowship. Special thanks to Dan Edwards for providing the location.

Outings

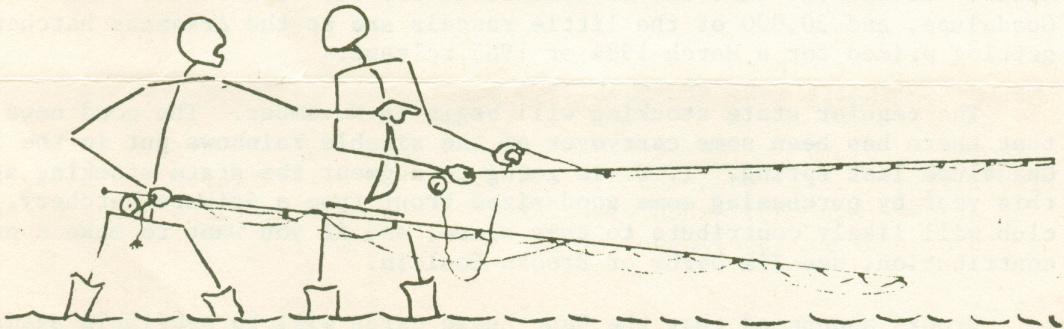
Outings chairman Roger (I think we're lost) Rowe has located the next two club outings on the Guadalupe River. The dates are December 3rd and 4th, and then January 7th and 8th. Call Roger at 981-5868.

Want Ads

Miss Classified reports that John Scarborough has a beautiful H. L. Leonard graphite rod for sale. It is that most versatile size: eight-foot six-inches for a six-weight line. The aluminum case is included. Call John at 465-5196 for such a deal.


A Guide to Guides

By: Eliot Tucker



Guides are invaluable aids to saltwater fishermen. The best on the Texas coast for a flyrodder is Gary Einkauf of Port Aransas. Several trips with Gary will teach you all you need to know about flats fishing. Another excellent guide is Raymond Cox of Matagorda. I am told Harold Brown of Rockport is also first rate. Before you engage a guide, ask him if he will take you fishing where you want to go. Be specific. Tell him you want to

fly fish and discern his response. I recommend you call in December or January when the guide is not busy and will be willing to talk. Go several times to the same area and ask lots of questions. Your money will be well spent.

If you cultivate a guide by referring him business or by tipping him well, most will be willing to tell you where the fish are on a subsequent date, even if you do not plan to fish with them. If you are fishing in an area without the guide and you catch a lot of fish, be sure to tell the guide where you caught them. Believe me, the favor will be reciprocated. 

Book Reviews

By: John Hannah

The River Why, by David James Duncan
Sierra Club Books, San Francisco

Failing to get the attention of some big trout in a deep hole by using wet flies, a character in this novel employs an ingenious technique. He puts a worm on his hook and plasters around it a wad of mud from the streamside. Cast into the depths, the worm does a slow striptease as the current erodes the mud away. The fish are driven crazy by the emerging worm and attack it with abandon. This is the Shat Creek Twinkie Technique and is a sample of the sort of comedy that abounds in The River Why.


The book's hero, Gus Orviston (how's that for an evocative fishing name?) is raised in the home of a tweedy, stuffed shirt, dry-fly-purist, intellectual father and a yahoo, worm-fishing mother who spend most of Gus's childhood fighting and arguing about Izaak Walton or other fishing subjects. Gus and his siblings are the products of his parent's reconciliations following three of these fights. The plot describes the progress of Gus's dealing with the conflicts in his home and in the world in general, because this is one of the Searching-for-the-Meaning-of-Life books. Like other books of this genre this one is heavy on the outdoors, on the theory that you can't find the meaning of life hanging around the house. And its nature-oriented themes are of course the reason that the Sierra Club decided to publish it.

Gus goes off to live by himself in a cabin by an Oregon River, where he ties flies, builds rods, and does an awful lot of fishing. The title of the book arises this way: when viewed from a mountain near Gus's cabin, the river in its meanderings spells out WHY in script.

We're not sure that Gus, or the reader, ever really finds out "Why" but during the course of his search he encounters, and so do we, a lot of fascinating experiences and characters. Characters like his little brother who has invented his own religion, featuring Garden Angels; a beautiful fisherwoman; a windbag fishing columnist; and even a philosophizing dog. There is a moving account of Gus hooking and then following upstream, all night, a spawning Chinook salmon.

The book has some uneven spots, and a few barren chapters. Pass lightly over these and forgive the author. It's his first novel. But it has much to commend


it and it has been commended by such varied sources as the New York Times, the Houston Post, and the Flyfisher. And by Wind Knots. We've recommended the book to non-fishing friends of ours; it should help them understand fishermen. Maybe not admire them, but understand them.

One angling chapter of The River Why is devoted to a discussion of The Compleat Angler, the book we intend to discuss here next month. 


Fishing News


When the large rainbow took off downstream in the fast water, Bill Bennett knew he had a problem. The fish passed on the far side of a ten-foot boulder in the middle of the San Juan River. Thinking quickly, the young doctor threw a loop of slack line over the rock and sprinted downstream. Angler and rainbow arrived below the boulder at the same time, and Bill was able to subdue, land, and release the second-largest trout of his fishing career. The largest had been caught an hour earlier in a less dramatic fashion.

Bill and Ken Jacoby fished the San Juan three days in mid-November. Your editor survived an early attack of the break-offs while demonstrating his Lake Conroe cross-their-eyes hook setting technique, to the great amusement of the guides. He finally settled down and landed some 25 large rainbows, proving that this great river can overcome even the most heavy-handed clumsiness.

Fish were taken on midges, Bluewinged Olives, and Clumper dries, but most were caught on Woolly Worms, Red Worms, and Zonkers. Guide service the first day was provided by Chuck Rizuto and his assistant Greg Price, two great guys. Chuck is one of the finest guides in the country. Call him at 505-334-9500 for condition reports or bookings. Chuck will be featured on the "Fishin" Hole" TV show on ESPN in January. He guided Jerry McGinnis to some great San Juan action. Watch your TV Guide for this show. As for Bennett and Jacoby, they can't wait to go back. 

Al Lasher, fishing with Dan Edwards on a private lake near Conroe, hung the bass of a lifetime. After a tough battle the great fish broke off. "I think your knot came loose," said Dan. "No way!" was Al's reply. "That mono is no darn good. The leader broke."

As Dan looked out over the water and spotted Al's popping bug floating nearby, he knew that this was one fishing argument that could be settled. If there was a piece of leader still tied to the bug, Al was right. If not, the knot had been at fault. Dan eased over and picked up the bug. 

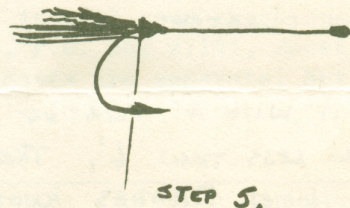
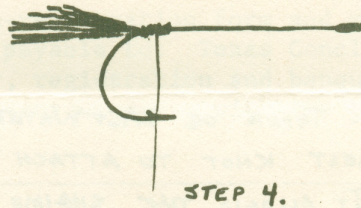
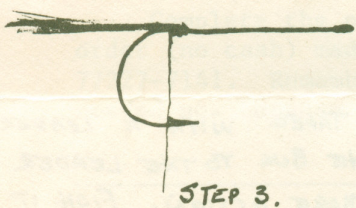
Jim Johnson reports that he, Chris Phillips, and Roger Rowe had a great time on their trip to the Chandeleur Islands. They fished with the legendary Rudy Grigar, and stayed on Rudy's 57-foot houseboat. The early November weather was fine. All three caught lots of fine specks and reds on flies. Roger landed some reds in the five-pound class on a four-pound test tipet, and wonders if this might be a light-tackle record of some kind. 

FIT TO BE TIED

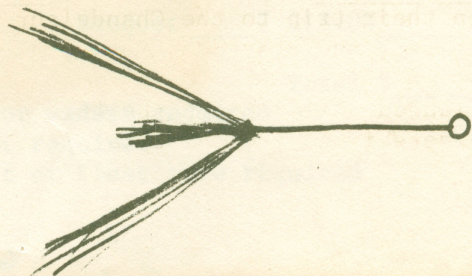
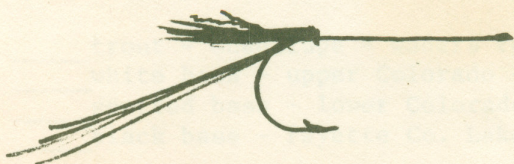
"JIM DARRY'S DELIGHT" IS A SALT WATER POPPER CREATED TO REPRESENT A DECAPOD CRUSTACEAN OF THE ORDER OF NANTANTIA, OCCASIONALLY REFERRED TO BY THE MORE ERUDITE AS SHRIMP. IT IS PARTICULARLY SUITED TO USE ON THE FLATS WHEN THE WATER IS CLEAR AND CALM. RATHER THAN THE LOUD POPPING SOUND CREATED BY THE CORK POPPERS, WHICH ON OCCASION WILL SPOOK TROUT AND REDFISH, THIS BUG GENERATES A SOFT GURGLING WHICH ENTICES THE FISH INTO STRIKING.

HOOK: MUSTAD STYLE 34007 STAINLESS STEEL - RINGED EYE.
THREAD: SUPER THREAD
HORN: RED (OR YELLOW) FAKE FUR OR FISHAIR
5 OR 6 STRANDS PEARL FLASHA BU.
ANTENNAE: 6 TO 8 BARRED JAVELINA COLLAR HAIRS
EYES: 40 LB. MONOFILAMENT
BODY: NATURAL DUN DEER OR ELK BODY HAIR.

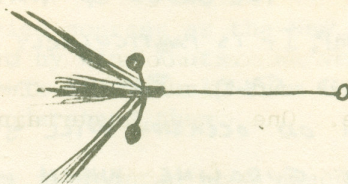
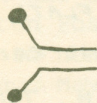
1. SHARPEN HOOK
2. ATTACH THREAD TO HOOK SHANK ABOVE THE BARB. ADD CEMENT.
3. TIE IN SMALL CLUMP OF FAKE FUR ON TOP OF HOOK, ABOUT $\frac{3}{4}$ AS LONG AS THE HOOK SHANK, EXTENDING BEYOND BEYOND THE BEND
4. ADD THE FLASHA BU ON TOP OF FUR AND NOT QUITE AS LONG AS THE FUR.
5. WIND TYING THREAD BACK TOWARD HOOK BEND TO BUILD UP SHOULDER. CEMENT.



6. TIE IN 3 OR 4 JAVELINA HAIRS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE HOOK SHANK SO THAT THE THE HAIRS FLARE OUT ABOUT 15° FROM THE HOOK SHANK ON EACH SIDE AND DOWN ABOUT 5° . THE HAIRS SHOULD BE NEARLY TWICE THE LENGTH OF THE HOOK.

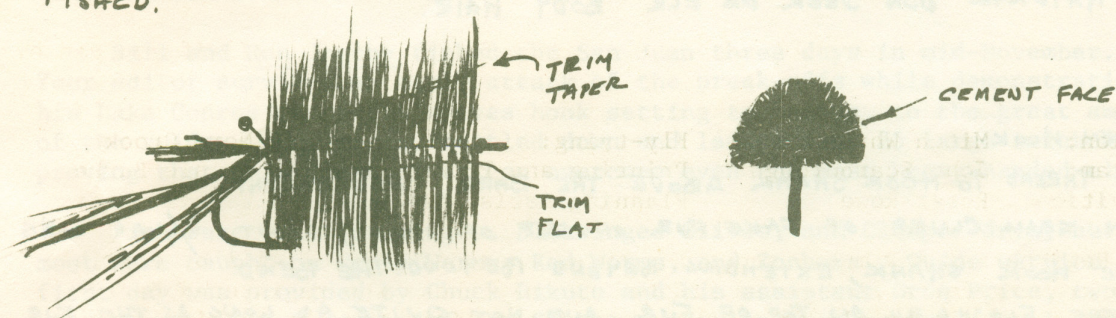


7. MELT ENDS OF MOND TO FORM ROUND BLACK EYES. WITH PLIARS BEND STEM, ABOUT $\frac{1}{4}$ " FROM THE EYE, DEPENDING ON HOOK SIZE, TO ABOUT A 45° ANGLE. TIE IN ON EACH SIDE OF HOOK SHANK ABOVE THE BARB,



8. CLEAN & SPIN NATURAL DUN DEER OR ELK BODY HAIR AS YOU WOULD SPIN A BASS BUG. KEEP ADDING CLUMPS OF SPUN HAIR CEMENTING EACH CLUMP AT THE HOOK SHANK AFTER YOU HAVE COMPRESSED IT. CONTINUE TO THE HOOK EYE. TIE OFF, WHIP FINISH & CEMENT.

9. TRIM BOTTOM FLAT, ROUND OFF THE BODY IN A CONICAL SHAPE TAPERING TO THE HOOK BEND. COAT THE FACE OF THE BUG WITH GOOP, SHOE GOO OR SIMILAR FLEXIBLE CEMENT TO KEEP THE FACE RIGID WHEN THE BUG IS BEING FISHED.



10. SPRAY FINISHED BUG WITH SLOTECH GUARD OR SIMILAR SILICONE WATERPROOFING MEDIUM OR FLY FLOATANT.

11. FISH IT WITH A FLOATING BUG TAPER OR SALT WATER TAPER WITH A LEADER OF NO LESS THAN 6'. THE BEST KNOT TO ATTACH THE BUG TO THE LEADER IS A HOMER RHODES KNOT. IT ALLOWS THE SHRIMP MORE ACTION. FISH IT WITH SHORT QUICK STRIPS.

Es TODO HOMBRES, BUENA SUERTE
LACK O'HACKLE

WHAT? The First Texas Conclave
 WHEN: March 16, 17, 18
 WHERE? The Sheraton Crest Inn, Austin, Texas

Conclave Director Brooks Bouldin is cracking the whip and his committees are working like mad to make this the finest possible first edition of the Texas Conclave. One thing is certain: this will be a first-class affair. Fly fishers from all over the country will congregate Friday evening, March 16, for a cocktail reception and social hour, while the finest fly tyers in the state will commence a-tying under the kindly but stern direction of old Lack O'Hackle. The tyers will also work all day Saturday as a back-drop to a series of seminars on stripers, panfish, black bass, salt water flats, and rainbow trout. These seminars will be given by top Texas anglers. Sunday, we go fishing.

There will be raffles, auctions, the Texas State Distance Fly Casting Championship (all are eligible), a banquet with program Saturday night, and a day of fishing Sunday with experts taking groups to various fishing locations.

The Sheraton Crest has blocked 40 rooms and is giving a special rate of \$49.00 per night for as many people as you want to stuff into a room. Jim Darby has a list of other motels and prices in the neighborhood.

Committee chairpersons are: (call Brooks at 782-5376 if you can help)

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Facilities: | Jim Darby | Registration and Treasurer: | Andy Tripoli |
| Auction: | Mitch Whitney | Fly-tying: | Norm Crook |
| Program: | John Scarborough | Printing and Promotion: | Connie Burke |
| Activities: | Roger Rowe | Planning Assistant: | Walter Jensen |

Registering now makes sense for three reasons: 1) you will be eligible for a drawing for a fine prize limited to only those who registered early; 2) your name will be placed at the top of the lists for the fishing trip of your choice for Sunday; and 3) you will be furnishing needed early cash for conclave expenses such as printing.

Complete the pre-registration form and mail it with your check or money order (no cash) made payable to: Texas Conclave, P.O. Box 27141, Houston, Texas 77227-7141. Remember, registration and banquet costs are separate, but both are needed now because of arrangements with the hotel.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
 The First Texas Conclave

(check one)

Name: _____ Single \$20.00
 _____ Family \$30.00
 Address: _____ Student \$15.00

Sunday fishing (check one): Banquet _____ @ \$18.00 _____

_____ trout - Guadalupe - waders required Total \$ _____
 _____ white bass - upper Colorado - boat or waders required
 _____ spotted bass - lower Colorado - boat required
 _____ black bass - Fayette Co. Lake - boat or float tube required

(8)

Loose Hooks

Chairman Morten Lovstad is planning a series of rod-building classes. If you are interested, call him at 350-2475.

Our beautiful Lance Brown-designed club patches are on sale from Gary Shepherd for \$6.50 a piece, two for \$13.00. Get some.

Herb Penning announces that in order to avoid any potential conflict with the Texas Conclave, our club's auction will be postponed for several months.

TFFer George Ayers, Jr., had his picture in the most recent Orvis Newsletter, alongside a big bonefish.

If you have auctioneering experience, Brooks would like to talk to you about helping with the Texas Conclave auction. Call him at 782-5376.

By the way, there was no piece of leader attached to Al Lasher's popping bug.

There will be no meeting or newsletter in December. Happy holidays from all of us on Wind Knots. See you in January.

RIZZOLO, DR. ED
2611 GREENLEE DR.
PEARLAND, TX. 77581

