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Fit To Be Tied: Norm (Lack O' Hackle) Crook

#### November Meeting

Date: Friday, November 21, 1986  
Place: Chesapeake Room  
Brookhollow Hilton Inn  
North Loop and T.C. Jester  
Time: Cash Bar.....6:30  
Dinner.....7:30  
Program.....8:30 Poul Jorgensen

The November meeting will be one of our very popular dinner meetings, featuring one of the top names in the fly-fishing world. Don't miss this chance to see and hear Poul Jorgensen, who is as funny as he is factual.

Tickets at the door will be \$25.00. Advance tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the Orvis store. The advance sale is said to be going strong and seating is limited, so get your tickets now and join us for a wonderful evening.

#### October Meeting

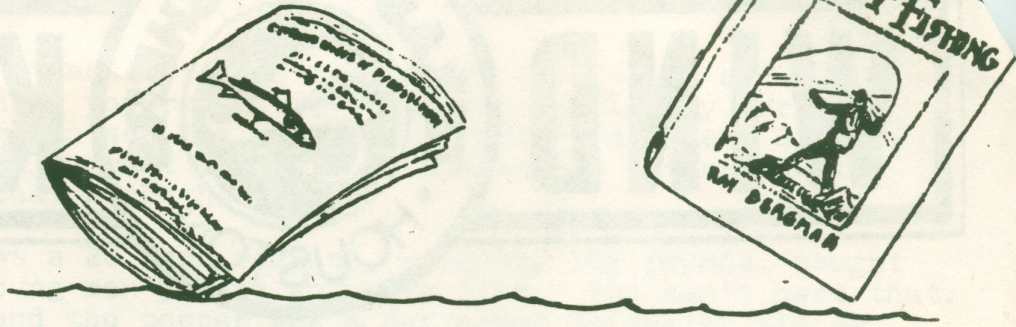
The annual casting clinic was well attended and well enjoyed and proved once and for all that there are many different styles of casting with a fly rod, and all of them are fun.

#### Poul Jorgensen

On Saturday, November 22nd, Poul will conduct a day-long fly-tying and casting seminar starting at 9:00 AM at the Brookhollow Hilton. This is a chance to watch one of the great ones up close. The cost is \$25.00.

## Book Reviews

By: John Hannah



The Ever Rolling Stream, by Bernard Aldrich. George Allen & Unwin, Publishers.

"Time like an ever rolling stream bears all its sons away." So goes the old hymn. Among those who have been borne away are those who fished the River Test at Broadlands in Hampshire, England, during the time when it was fished by only three anglers a day. Now you will find many people on the six salmon beats and the three miles of trout water.

One reason for the increased numbers of anglers is that the estate needs the rental income. Another reason, however, is that Bernard Aldrich, Broadlands' river keeper over the last thirty years, has increased the amount of fishable water. He has accomplished this by altering the river's contours and pools and by actually creating a two-mile trout stream and a large coarse-fishing lake. In this book Aldrich tells about how he did this, and these achievements are praised in a foreword by H.R.H. Prince Charles.

In addition to telling us about the nuts and bolts of river management, Aldrich relates his experiences with some renowned fishermen and with the most famous of the owners of Broadlands: Lord and Lady Mountbatten. He gives a moving account of the events at Broadlands surrounding the death of Lady Mountbatten in North Borneo and, later of those associated with Lord Mountbatten's murder at the hands of Irish terrorists.

I have thought of the Test at Broadlands as a trout stream because the people I know who have fished there, like our editor Ken Jacoby, went there to catch trout. Actually, the emphasis in this book, as well as at Broadlands, is on salmon; trout weren't even introduced on the estate until 1967. I'm grieved to learn that the worm and the prawn are in the ascendancy as to means of catching salmon; Aldrich says that very few are taken on the fly these days. Aldrich points out the decline of salmon population in the river, but he makes no suggestion that bait fishing or the absence of catch-and-release practices might be factors.

The photos on the dust jacket of this book, and the drawings inside, are very nice, but I wish that there could have been more illustrations; I would like to have seen some of the photos that Aldrich refers to in the text. And a map would have added a lot, but I suppose that would have encouraged trespassers.

It might be that this book won't be as widely read as an earlier one by D. H. Lawrence about a game keeper. But it contains much of interest to fishermen and is much more wholesome reading. That future king and I recommend it.

New Programs

The poll of members' interests taken recently has been reviewed by Ed Rizzolo, John Scarborough, and Tony Woods. Chief interests are casting instruction, rod-building, and entomology. In response, Phil Staley will be setting up casting instructions on a continuing basis, manned by the likes of Brooks Bouldin, Morten Lovstad, and Dave Hayward, where a member can go to get a tune-up or a complete overhaul for his double haul.

Plans are also being made for a series of rod-building lessons, hopefully with Morten Lovstad as teacher. Entomology classes are also in the mill, to be conducted by Verne and Judy Lehmborg. All of these sessions will be on a continuing basis in the same format as our fly-tying classes. Watch for further details.

Kanz Lease

To purchase a Kanz Lease card this year, you must do the following:

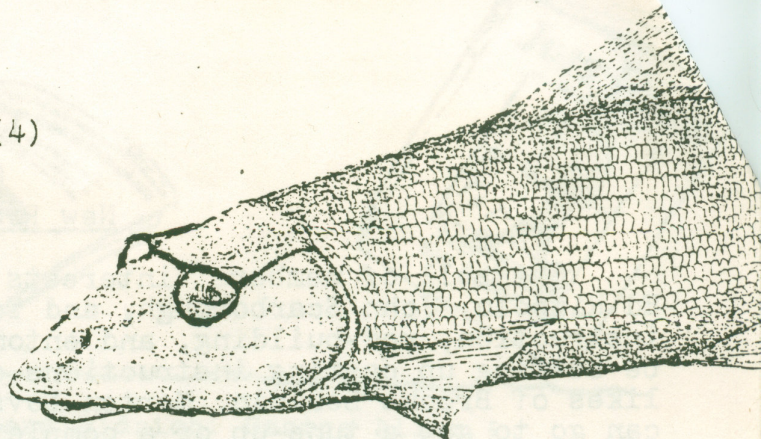
- 1) Be a member of Trout Unlimited nationally;
- 2) Be a member of Trout Unlimited - Texas Chapter (\$5.00);
- 3) Send your check for the Kanz Lease card (\$25.00) directly to:  
Hazel Schubauer Secretary/Treasurer  
5022 Prince Valiant Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78218.

You can also send Hazel the \$5.00 Texas Chapter T. U. check. Make them payable to "Texas Chapter - Trout Unlimited."

The T. U. people are planning to supplement the state-planted rainbows with some browns this year, and they need donations for this purpose. Send donations to Hazel at the above address. Remember, you need a Texas Trout Stamp to fish the Guadalupe.

Want Ads

For those who learn best in a one-on-one situation, Brooks Bouldin will be offering private casting and tying lessons at his shop location at 9101 Lipan, Suite 201 (one block north of Westpark and one block west of Fondren). He will have some antique rods and lures on display, in addition to a good supply of tying materials and a selection of those magnificent Lovstad rods. We wouldn't be surprised to find some Betterbugs for sale too, those poppers that have been knocking the bass and redfish silly this autumn. Brooks announces that super-tier Mitch Whitney will be giving lessons also. The shop will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 5:00. On other days, call Brooks at 782-2708 for an appointment.

On The Salty SideBy: Eliot TuckerWHO CAUGHT THIS FISH?

Fishing is ordinarily a solitary enterprise. Fishermen do go to the stream in groups, lie in packs, and flock to club meetings, but we actually go mano-a-mano and one-on-one with the fish. However, Jim Darby and I have developed a relationship that gives us an edge. We double team each fish. We team up to do what we could not do alone. The result is a classic "half cup situation." That is, the cup is half empty or half full, depending upon the attitude of the observer. In our case, we can never honestly say about any fish, "I caught this fish." On the other hand, we can both say about every fish, "We caught it." This is because when we fish together, we pole the flats for reds and trout. This technique requires co-operation and communication between the poler on the poling tower and the caster on the bow. Each has certain tasks and certain responsibilities that are required to make this system work.

Usually the poler sees the fish first, if it is not tailing, as most are not. From the poling tower he has a much better view of fish that are underwater and usually has a better perspective to distinguish real fish wakes from mullet wakes at greater distances. The poler also can concentrate on looking; the caster has to keep the fly unfouled and fight the fly line's tendency to wrap around the boat and get under foot.

The poler has to call out the direction and distance of the fish, and with a cruising fish, which way it is moving. A typical sighting goes like this:

"Okay, there is a big red at 11 o'clock, about 100 feet, pushing a big wake, moving from left to right."

Then the poler has to decide how to give the caster the best angle for the cast, considering the wind direction, the direction of the fish's movement, and whether the caster is left or right handed. He has to tell the caster what he is going to do. He may say next:

"Okay, I am going to push us up and swing to the right a bit to give you a good shot." (Assuming a right handed caster and a wind moving from starboard stern to port bow).

He then has to push to get within casting range (without overdoing it and getting too close) and then position the boat. With a tailing fish or a fish milling around, he has to stop the boat, sometimes no mean task. The poler has to stop the boat to keep from spooking the fish and to give the caster more than one shot if the first is unsuccessful.

Although both poler and caster have a responsibility to keep the fish in sight, it is usually easier for the poler because he does not have to look for a dropped fly line or see where the fly is in relation to the fish.

If the fish does not strike and moves off without spooking, the poler has to try to follow if he can. If the fish spooks, he starts to look for the next fish, or takes his place on the bow.


The caster, of course, has the responsibility of looking for fish too, and keeping his eye on it once one is spotted. IF he does not immediately see the fish, or the wake, he ought to point his rod so the poler can say, "No, more to the left (or right)." Then the caster should say so when he spots the fish. He can talk to the poler to help the poler position the boat.

"All right, I see the fish. Move me up about forty feet and swing the boat to the right. Okay, good, I'm in range, here goes."

The caster has to realize the effort the poler has made and do his best to make an accurate cast, retrieve the fly properly so it will intersect the front end of the fish, and strike at the right time without breaking off or ripping the fly out of the fish's mouth. The caster has the responsibility of keeping his hooks sharp, replacing leaders that are knotted or nicked, tying strong knots and carefully playing and landing the fish.

The caster has to be sure his line is clear, not bunched up, properly cleaned and lubricated so it will shoot, and not under foot. He also has to be sure he does not stomp the boat when fish are around. When casting near 12 o'clock, i. e. , straight ahead, he has to keep the fly high so his backcast does not maim the poler.

Of course, since we switch positions at every caught fish or blown opportunity, we both have all these responsibilities. So, when the fish has been served to our appreciative family, and the children ask, "Daddy, who caught this fish?", the answer has to be, "We caught it, Jim and I."

Both our cups are full. 

### Fishing News

Brad Bouldin knew he was in very fast company, and he had tried all day to hold his own with the three others in the boat - his dad, world-class tarpon fly-fisher Chris Phillips, and local expert Sam Carpenter, owner of Cove Harbor Boat Works and Cudacraft Boats.

One of the others spotted the wakes of two large fish moving down the Rockport shoreline, but it was Brad who made the perfect 55 foot cast with his dad's 8/9 Lovstad rod. One of the fish turned, struck the #2 red pencil popper, and headed south.

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The young man was attached to the redfish of a lifetime and was engulfed by a wave of high powered advice. When Brad finally worked the fish in close enough to see the size of the bronze monster, Brooks, who had tried to keep calm, went into his little-league father routine and jumped out of the boat with the net.

The box score shows a 28 inch redfish, weighing  $10\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, caught by one of the nicest young men you're going to find. You can't beat that. The rod was a Lovstad and the popper was a Betterbug Saltwater Minnow. And that's good too. The four anglers took 20 reds and nine trout that day, fishing the Rockport flats. Chris called it his best day ever on reds. He landed, among others, a six-pounder and an eight-pounder. But he was glad to admit that it was the young man's day.

The above group was part of our club's October 24th Saltwater Outing. Others in the group were George Ayres, Tony Woods, Robert Kline, Morten Lovstad, Rod Gardner, Bob Cuyler, and Phil Staley. Robert McCurdy and Rockport guide Rod Spivey rounded out the group. They enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of George Ayres, who is the nicest guy in this club, and who put them up at his Rockport home.

#### Loose Hooks

We welcome new members Gary Ellington and Robert Reis.

The Southern Council Conclave held recently in Arkansas was a great success. Dan Abrams was a fine banquet speaker and Jimmy Nix and Bob Cunningham received top awards.

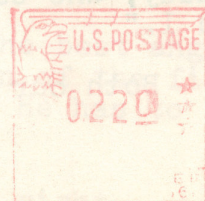
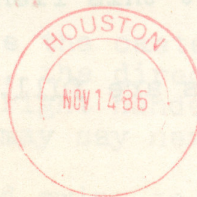
Congratulations to the Alamo Flyfishers, who are completing their first year with a banquet this month. They've had a fine year.

Remember, our November meeting is not on the last Tuesday and not at the church. And you Lack O' Hackle fans, calm down. Norm's column will resume in January.

As always, there will be no club meeting or newsletter in December. Best holiday wishes from all of us on WIND KNOTS. We will return, with a new look, in January.

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Address correction requested



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