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#### October Meeting

DATE: October 25, 1983  
PLACE: St. John's Episcopal Church  
Room 010, Education Bldg.  
River Oaks and Westheimer  
TIME: 7:30 Fly of the Month - Lance Brown  
8:00 Main Program - John Fulton  
The San Juan River

#### Annual Casting Contest and Picnic

Jim Darby has announced that the annual club casting contest will be held on Saturday, October 22nd, beginning at noon. The defending club champion, Dave Perkins, has moved back to Vermont, so the title is wide open. This get-together will feature much more than the contest. It will be held at a fine small lake and pavilion, courtesy of Dan Edwards. There will be fishing for bass, brim, and crappie, so bring some poppers, nymphs, and streamers. Some boats and canoes will be available, but if you have a float tube, bring it. There will be beer, soft-drinks, and barbeque, and all paid-up members and their families are invited. The cost? FREE.

The place is the lake and pavilion at Forest Hills subdivision. Go north on 45 towards Conroe. Exit on 1488 to the right. Cross the railroad tracks, turn right, then take the first left to the dead-end. Go right 1/4 mile to the pavilion. (It's not as tough as this sounds.)

R.S.V.P. to Jim Darby by Thursday, October 20, at 266-9300. Don't miss this chance for fishing and fellowship. Dan says the big crappie are hitting streamers in the evening.

Auction

Now is the time to begin gathering items for our February club auction.

Dues

Charlie Thanheiser and Gary Shepherd have determined that the October meeting is the absolute deadline for getting dues paid. If not paid-up by then, you will be removed from the rolls. This means you will not receive anymore newsletters, and will not be able to take part in the outings or activities. Get your \$20.00 in now. Don't forget the Federation of Fly Fishers. This is our national organization. Our club was founded as a FFF affiliate. FFF dues are \$20.00. Send them and club dues to Gary or Charlie at the club address. Paid-up members will receive an up-to-date club roster.

Southern Region Conclave

Representing TFF in Mountain Home, Arkansas the first week in October were Walter Jensen, Norm Crook, Gary Shepherd, Charlie Thanheiser, Brooks Bouldin, Jim Davis, and Ken Jacoby. Mollie Crook and Stella Jensen added some much needed dignity and charm to the contingent. Chico Fernandez gave the main program, a slide show entitled "Brackish Water Fly Fishing." He was great. Attendance totalled 234 people from all over the south.

Outings

The September club outing found 13 TFFers scattered over 50 miles of Port Aransas flats. This fishing was fair, but much was learned about the area, and a fine time was had by all. If you are going to Port Aransas, Roger Rowe recommends the Island Retreat Condos. Winter rates for a two bedroom, two bath, unit with kitchen are \$41.00 per night.

Roger has two places open on the trip to the Chandeleurs November 6th through 10th. Cost is \$475.00. Call him at 951-5868.

Plan now for the December outing to the Guadalupe, December 3rd and 4th. The state-planted rainbows will be in the river, and, hopefully, some carry-over browns and rainbows.

Texas Conclave

Brooks continues with his planning for the first Texas Conclave, to be held in Austin the first weekend in March. There will be seminars on Saturday, and a banquet Saturday night. Sunday will be a day of fishing. Choose the species: black bass, stripers, white bass, or trout. Experts will take small groups to each fishing spot. Sound good? Plan to go.

The Best Bait

By: Eliot Tucker

A fly rod popper will outfish any lure if you are after redfish on shallow flats. Using a yellow popper on several occasions under very different conditions,

I have outfished experienced hardware fishermen consistently. On a blustery dark day in water two to three feet deep, the yellow popper in sizes two and four caught more and bigger fish than the spoons, plugs, and worms two friends were using. On a bright, calm day in clear water 16 to 24 inches deep, the popper caught redfish very intent upon burying their noses in the sand. The gold spoon would either spook them (I cannot imagine why) or fail to get their attention. On another bright day in water a little less than optimum depth, six to 18 inches, with a steady breeze, the popper succeeded when plugs and spoons failed. Contrary to what most Texas fishermen think, I am convinced that it is more difficult to catch redfish on the flats with hardware than it is on poppers.

Four tips will insure your success. The popper must be worked vigorously, i.e., make it splash water. Cast two to four feet beyond the fish and work it back right past the fish. If the fish misses on the strike, cast it back immediately to a point two feet or so beyond the spot of the strike and work it back again. Finally, if the fish follows the fly to within about fifteen feet of you, pick up the popper using a low, slow side sweep of the rod, back up slowly, and cast again. Pulling the popper away from a following fish is extremely difficult to do. However, if you let the fish get too close, it will spook and you will never catch it.

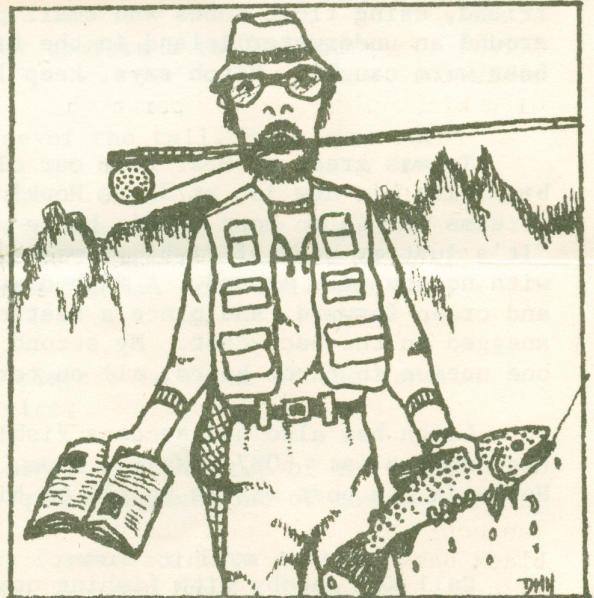
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#### Book Reviews ?

By: John Hannah

Among the things that TFFers have in common, besides a love of fishing, is that they are literate. Or most of them are, anyway. So in future issues of Wind Knots we're going to run some book reviews to maybe whet your appetites to read some good books about fly fishing during those periods when our libraries are more accessible than our favorite waters, and when we're too lazy to tie flies or build rods.

There exists a whole galaxy of literature about fishing, and even about fly fishing. The catalog of Angler's and Shooter's Bookshelf, of Goshen, Connecticut, lists more than 2,000 titles on fishing. There is even a book about fishing books: The Fishing in Print, by Arnold Gingrich. So we can't really cover much ground, or review all of the books that should be included in a well-stocked fishing library. (Heck, we don't even know what books should be in a well-stocked fishing library). But maybe we can cover a few new books and a few classics that you haven't read yet.



We'll start next issue with a fishing novel, The River Why. If we discover that nobody is reading these reviews, much less the books themselves, we'll find some other use for this space.

Fishing News

When fall arrives and salmon everywhere head for their birthplaces, the kokanee (landlocked salmon) in Blue Mesa Reservoir begin their journey up the East River to the Roaring Judy fish hatchery. There, near Gunnison, Colorado, Pat Patterson waits for them each September. This year, Pat took one of these great battlers the first day on a nymph, and found another fly in the salmon's mouth. Not just any fly, but the ugliest one Pat had ever seen: a chartreuse chenille body under a sloppy tinsel rib, and a green bucktail wing.

The next day while sharing a pool with a local guide, Pat pulled the green fly from his vest and said, "Look at this. Who would be dumb enough to use this ugly thing?" "I would," was the reply. "That's my fly. Try it. You might be surprised." After removing his foot from his mouth, Pat clinched the fly to his leader, and proceeded to catch eight kokanee from 20 to 24 inches.

When last seen, Pat was at Orvis, buying some chartreuse chenille and thinking about next September.

Gary Shepherd, on his annual September trip to Montana, made the Livingston area his headquarters this year. He found the rainbows on Armstrong and Nelson Spring Creeks to be very selective, but he took lots of nice ones to 20 inches on a #20 no-hackle dry fly on a long 6x tippet. Gary also fished the Boulder River, where the trout were surprisingly large, from 16 to 20 inches mostly. This stream is pleasant to fish, but has much private water. Gary plans to explore the Boulder next year.

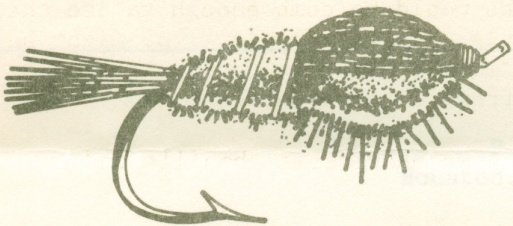
Dave Hayward, Mitch Whitney, and Brooks Bouldin, along with Mitch's girl friend, using float tubes and small poppers, found some nice bass schooled-up around an underwater island in the first jungle on Lake Conroe recently. Fifteen bass were caught. Mitch says, keep looking till you find them.

It was great to hear from our old mentor, Leigh Shuman. He is keeping very busy with his new job at Johns Hopkins, but the good doctor has found some nice streams within an hour of his house near Baltimore. Let's let him tell it: "It's just my kind of fishing, wading along in hip boots under a canopy of trees, with no one else around. A fish dimples in the next pool. You get on your knees and creep forward, and place a beetle 30 feet upstream, taking care not to get snagged on the back-cast. My second trip yielded two browns, two rainbows, and one native in three hours, all on terrestrials."

Leigh has also had success fishing the upper Potomac for smallmouths. His address is: 6087-7 Majors Lane, Columbia, MD. 21045. Phone, 301-997-9588. He sends his best wishes to all of his friends at the club.

Call Ken Jacoby with fishing news. 1-409-273-2991 (h): 999-6669 (o).

# GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR



For all Guadalupe bound trout fishermen here it is! The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear nymph, next to canned corn it's the most consistent producer of trout in Texas. And best of all it's quick and easy to tie. The only real secret is to be sure and tie it as fuzzy and furry as possible.

## Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3906B

Sizes: 8 to 16

Thread: Brown - 6/0 pre-waxed

Weight: Medium lead wire

Tail: Hare's Ear - Guard hairs

Rib: Fine gold wire

Abdomen: Dubbed hare's ear fur

Wing Case: Oak Turkey wing quill

Thorax: Dubbed hare's ear fur

Legs: Dubbing picked out of thorax

## How to tie:

1. Tie in guard hairs from a hare's ear to form a tail. Laquer thread with light head cement.
2. Tie in gold wire tightly at the base of the tail. Pull wire out of the way.
3. Spin dubbing fur from hare's ear onto the thread very tightly.
4. Wrap spun hare's ear fur forward tapering it. Stop half way down the hook shank.
5. Wrap gold wire through dubbing and tie off in front of the tapered body. Cut off and discard the excess wire.
6. Tie in turkey quill segment, 3/16"-1/4" wide, on top of the hook shank in front of the body. Pull the quill segment out of the way.
7. Dub on more hare's ear fur and wrap forward to form a large thorax.
8. Pull turkey quill segment forward and tie in at eye of hook.
9. Trim off excess quill, whip finish and laquer head.