



WIND

KNOTS

October Dinner Meeting

Date: October 24, 1987
Place: Adam's Mark Hotel
Westheimer at Carrillon Cntr.
Time: 6:00 Cocktails
Dinner
Main Program ...
Chico Fernandez

(Please note the date, time and place changes for this month's meeting and look for more details on page 4 of this issue.)

September Meeting

The Dave Whitlock video "Flyfishing For Bass," probably the best fishing video on the market, brought out a nice crowd of 88 people, including numerous visitors. John Scarborough conducted the meeting, which featured no business and lots of fun, just the way we like it. Rockport guide Howard Brown gave a talk about the great flats fishing opportunities in that area.

Back Casts

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Hannah:

When is it proper to use a bamboo rod, and when is it proper to use a graphite rod?

Yours truly,
Confused

Dear Confused:

It is proper to use a graphite rod when all the bamboo rods in the world have been mashed in car doors.

Sincerely,
John T. Hannah

(Reprinted from *WIND KNOTS*, December 30, 1977)

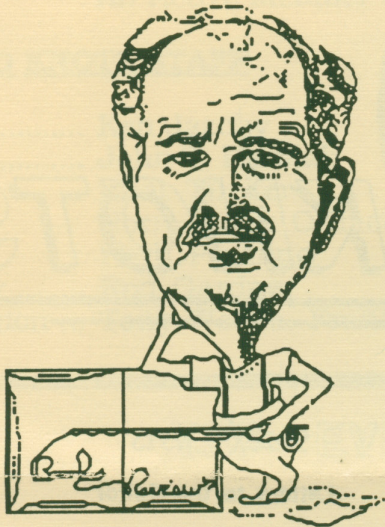
Tying Tips

By: Mitch Whitney

Editor's note: This is a new feature in which tips, tricks, and ideas - the kind you don't find in magazines - will be expounded. Super-tier Mitch Whitney will be the host, but don't let that daunt you; you needn't be a world class tier to participate. Write up your tip in 100 words or less and mail it to Mitch. If we use it, you'll get a prize. The first tip is by Lack O' Hackle, who, of course, is not eligible for a prize.

Having trouble with wax building up in the stem of your tying bobbin? It's a good bet you haven't thought of using a plain old-fashioned pipe cleaner to remove the crud. Dill's Best Tobacco Company puts out a cleaner that has small pieces of plastic woven into the wire core that really does the job. A lifetime supply of these cleaners is only two bits. You can't beat the price.

Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook



by

John T. Hannah

Fresh Waters, by Edward Weeks. Atlantic-Little, Brown & Company

Here's how to produce a good angling book: Take a distinguished editor, introduce him to fly fishing, and then get him to write about it.

Edward Weeks was editor of the Atlantic magazine and forty years old when he acquired his first fly rod. Decades later he produced *Fresh Waters* in which he recounts his progress from eager tyro to "irrepressible angler."

Weeks excels when he employs his powers of description. In some respects the talents of a good writer offer advantages, in the portraying of a scene, over those of an artist or a photographer. A word picture can point out to us features which, unless we are perceptive, we could easily miss. Thus, "The windows of the sun as they opened through high clouds lit up the whole valley in different planes" is, I think, more descriptive than a painting of the the same scene would be. And Weeks could, like an artist, convey emotion as when he writes about approaching a salmon pool which was pregnant with promise.

By the time he became an "irrepressible angler" he had firmly and properly arranged his priorities. From his book you can see that he valued his associations with angling authors like Haig-Brown and Hewitt at least as highly as he did his contacts with great non-angling writers like E. B. White or with eminent people like Eisenhower.

The locales of Weeks' fishing and of his stories include Quebec, New England, Pennsylvania, Hampshire, and even the U.S.S.R.; as he says, "not a big inventory as anglers go." Many of his experiences are centered around the Miramichi, and he introduces us to some of the mystique of the elite

angling clubs.

Weeks asserts that casting doesn't improve one's golf: which explains my soaring handicap. Other miscellany which I liked: One acquaintance of Weeks had an interesting undercut-bank technique. He would stomp along the bank at the water's edge, driving out trout. He would mark spots where the larger ones lived so that he could fish there for them later in the day. Another angler trained his dog to bark when it saw salmon jumping, allowing its master to play poker in the lodge until the fish arrived in the pool. And Weeks describes hen salmon traveling the river in the company of male grilse, "the tough young bachelors." Like a dowager with her gigolo.

Because of his reputation, Weeks must have been given a hard time by his literary colleagues when the book was published with a reference to the apostle Paul's conversion on the road to Ephesus. And also by his angling friends when the River Ichen was spelled "Ichon" and Vom Hofe reels "Van Hoeff." Not the sort of slips that you would expect to find in an editor's work. Jacoby wouldn't allow that.

This is another book belonging to a member of our club. The copy I read was ex Charley Thanheiser's libris. I expect he would lend it to you if you're interested in reading it.

The Federation

By: *Herb Penning*

As I recently glanced through the program for the Southern Council Conclave, I began to think how expensive and time consuming it would be to try to visit individually with the experts listed. Imagine the schedule conflicts and time pressures - not to mention the cost. These folks derive a goodly part of their income giving "individual" attention to people for a handsome price.

The solution is easy. I'm a member of the Federation, therefore through my support these people were at Mountain Home. Being an old retailer and bargain hunter I began to calculate my "savings." My membership allowed me to register (for a meager \$15.00) and pick these experts' brains - what a deal for my FFF membership. Boy, am I glad I belong to the Federation.

I wonder of one of the benefits is one of them painting my windows and shredding my fields? I guess not. **BUT I AM A FEDERATOR - HOW ABOUT YOU? Join today!**



On
The
Salty Side
by **Eliot Tucker**

October is the perfect month for catching redfish at Port Aransas, and Eliot Tucker is busy with that instead of writing his column. He'll get one month off for good behavior.

The Angler's Edge

Brooks Bouldin announces that the grand opening for his new shop location will be held on October 24th from 10:00 to 4:00. Chico Fernandez will be at the shop all day and the format will be informal, giving us the chance to visit with him. Chico is one of the really nice guys in the fly-fishing business, and you will not want to miss this chance to come by and get to know him. He is one of the world's great saltwater fly-fishers, but is also plenty savvy on freshwater fishing.

Brooks says there will be food and beverages at the opening. The Angler's Edge is located at 8450 Westpark (between Fondren and Hillcroft). The phone is 266-4493. I'll see you there on October 24th.

Ted Houghton is offering a great buy on a saltwater bay boat. Picture yourself working-over those autumn schools of specks on Galveston Bay with your 18 foot, shallow draft, Glasscrafters. With 140 HP at your command, you can get to the fish in a hurry. This boat has a center console, semi-tunnel, and a full warranty by the owner. The price, including the trailer, is \$6,000. Call Ted at 934-8545 (h) or 391-7330 (o) for further information or to arrange a demonstration on this remarkably priced, quality fishing craft.

loose hooks

Those of you who love the hill country will be delighted with a pamphlet entitled "A Fly Fisher's Guide To Rivers Of The Texas Hill Country." Published by the Alamo Fly Fishers, this guide is the work of Bud Priddy, with some help from our old friend Earl Rettig. To get your copy, contact John Scarborough or Tony Woods. The price is \$4.00.

Are you embarrassed by your tailing loop? Do you make a puddle cast even when you don't intend to? Get yourself straightened out at the Casting Clinic on November 8th at The Lakes at Post Oak. Phil Staley says the Clinic will start at 6:30 PM and the instructors will be club experts.

An interested crowd of 18 TFFers enjoyed the September entomology class. Judy Lehmborg did a great job. The subject was caddis flies, and Judy remarked that there are at least 7,000 different types of caddis. No wonder Ed Rizzolo carries such a heavy fly box.

Howard Brown, Rockport fishing and duck hunting guide, who spoke at our September meeting, can be reached at 512-729-2605.

We welcome two new club members, Robert Smith and Larry Greenburg. It is also very pleasing to report 12 new Federation members this month, thanks mainly to the efforts of Herb Penning, John Scarborough, and Tony Woods.

Paul Akscyn, newly appointed outings chairman, would like suggestions from members as to destinations for outings. Call Paul at 683-6988 (h) or 484-2531 (w).

At the recent Southern Council Conclave in Mountain Home, Arkansas, our own Mitch Whitney was named Educator of the Year for his efforts in teaching tying. We are proud of you, Mitch. Also honored were our friends Joe Robinson, Tier of the Year, and Al Wilkie, Man of the Year. Brooks Bouldin accepted one of the two conservation awards on behalf of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. The other was given to that splendid bunch of Okies, the Green Country Fly Fishers. Our attendees enjoyed the conclave and were particularly impressed with Mike and Chris Fong of California, who put on some wonderful programs.

On a sad note, The Wapsi Fly Company, located in Mountain Home, suffered a serious fire during the time of the conclave.

Fishing News

That stubborn German, Charlie Thanheiser, has been exploring new territory and new techniques this year. He did spend considerable time on his beloved Montana spring creeks, and he remains a dedicated and skillful dry fly fisher, but an un-Charlielike disposition to change has surprised his friends recently.

A case in point is a recent trip to the little-known Dolores River in southwestern Colorado. This tailwater stream is on the small side, but the trout are on the large side, and Charlie found them to be very susceptible to his "bobber" technique (a weighted nymph fished with a strike indicator). He says to be certain to check the dam outflow before going, and to be sure to visit nearby Mesa Verde National Park when you get there.

Tom Parris made three trips to his Minnesota canoe country island cabin this summer, and as usual had excellent north woods fishing. Most people in that part of the woods pursue the succulent walleye, but Tom likes to do battle with smallmouth bass. He landed a five-pounder this summer, a real trophy in those northern waters. The fly Tom used is a pattern we are not familiar with. He called it a Mepps.

Ray Brauer had a fine Alaskan salmon trip last year, and he figured to do it again this summer. What he didn't realize was that four years ago, a critter called El Nino had been busy ruining the good doctor's 1987 trip. El Nino is a warm ocean current that started in Peru and swung up to Alaska. Alaskan salmon avoided the warm water, and this year there were few fish returning to the rivers where Ray was waiting for them. His total catch for a week of hard fishing was equal to what he had caught the first hour in 1986.

While Alaskan salmon were refusing to spawn, Charlie Weems was fishing in Sweden for Baltic Atlantic salmon, a species that spawns five or six times in their lifespan. Charlie landed several of these wonderful fish, the best one a 15-pounder which fell to a gold comet. These explosive fish are hard to fool, and even harder to land. Fishing is arranged through a government agency, and must be the world's best salmon fishing bargain at \$15.00 per day. Charlie liked the country, the people,

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

October Meeting

ATTENTION. There is a change in the club calendar concerning the October meeting. The dinner meeting has been moved from November to October 24th. The place is the Adam's Mark Hotel on Westheimer and the evening will begin with cash-bar cocktails at 6:00 (that's PM, Staley). The program will feature the great Chico Fernandez, a fly-fishing superstar.

Our club dinner meetings are evenings not to be missed. They always bring out a full house so make your plans to attend and to bring your spouse. A headcount is needed, so you will be contacted by the club telephone committee. Mark Holler says the cost will be \$20.00 per person and the menu will be a choice of Chicken Supreme or Broiled Filet of Sole. This event will be limited to members and guests of members.

The dinner meeting will take the place of the regular October meeting, but we know that someone, probably Temp Deaver or Jim Bridges, will show up at the Viscount on October 27th, and wonder, "Where is everybody?"



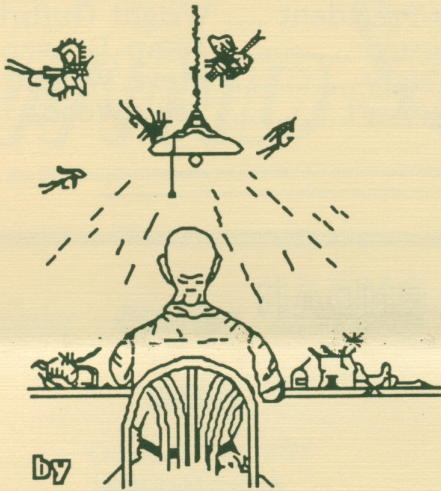
**THE
PREZ
SEZ!**

by

**John
Scarborough**

I always like our club dinner meetings because they bring together our members and their families in a festive mood. It's a chance for us to socialize with each other, and that's good. The diversity of our club - all kinds of different people working together and enjoying each other - is what makes this a great organization. And when you add a great speaker like Chico Fernandez.....well, I can't wait until October 24th.

FIT TO BE TYED



by

Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook

The Nance Cricket

If you promise not to tell our Fearless Leader, I believe I've found what may be the ultimate weapon for our annual Sunfish Spectacular, short of a DuPont Special. One that may dethrone the "Czar" once and for all. This cricket was developed by C. B. Nance of the Mid South Flyfishers of West Memphis, Arkansas. He touts it as the best bream bug in the world, or any place else. It looks buggy enough to be enticing to all members of the sunfish family.

For best results, Cecil says to allow the bug to sink through the surface film then twitch it occasionally to simulate a drowning cricket. Sounds reasonable, no?

Material needs are simple. Mustad hook #3399A or #3906B, size 8; black 6/0 thread; light brown chenille, medium size; secondary turkey wing feather; brown hackle; white duck biots; ringneck pheasant center tail feather sprayed with Tuffilm, segmented in 1/8" units and knotted to form legs; and brown ostrich herl. ---Try tying this bug with black chenille, black hackle and black herl also.



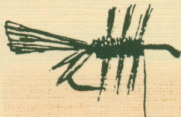
1. Attach thread 2 eye diameters behind eye. Wind back to a point above hook point. Attach biot on off side of hook then tie in biot on near side.



2. Tie in a 3/8" segment of turkey for the shell back or wing cover. Now tie in chenille and one brown hackle. Trim off hackle butt and excess herl.



3. Wind chenille one turn behind hackle stem, then wind forward to the point original winding of thread starts. Tie down chenille and clip off excess.



4. Wind hackle forward, Palmer style, and tie off just forward of point where chenille was tied off. With scissors, trim off hackles on top of hook.



5. Carefully fold the turkey wing segment and tie down. Trim off excess.



6. Clip a pre-prepared leg from the pheasant tail feather. Tie it in on the off side of the hook. Trim off excess butts.



7. Now clip a pre-prepared leg from the opposite side of the pheasant feather. Tie it in on the near side of the hook. Trim off butts.



8. Tie in brown ostrich herl. Trim off excess.



9. Wind herl forward to within 1/2 eye diameter of eye. Tie down. Clip excess and whip finish.

Since this is a new variation of the cricket, I'd like to hear from any of you who tie and fish this little critter, and your success. You might try tying the body with dubbed polypropylene which doesn't soak up water like chenille and is less dense than water. Ergo, a floater. --Have fun!

WIND KNOTS is the Newsletter of The Texas Fly Fishers - Houston, Texas
 An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers

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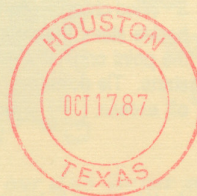
TEXAS FLY FISHERS OFFICERS

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 Treasurer Temp Deaver
 Secretary Steve Wright
 Exec. Ass't Tony Woods

TFF EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>WHEN & WHO</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
October 24 - 6:00 p.m. <i>Chico Fernandez</i>	Club Dinner Meeting	Adam's Mark Hotel Westheimer at Carrillion Center
November 8 - 6:30 p.m. <i>Club Experts</i>	Casting Clinic	The Lakes at Post Oak Richmond and Post Oak
November 24 - 7:00 p.m.	Club Meeting	Viscount Hotel
December	<u>No Club Events Scheduled</u>	

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