

# WindKnots

A Monthly Publication of the Texas Flyfishers

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October 2005

## High Lonesome Ranch

By Bud Turner

This last summer, I got a call from the owner of my company on a Wednesday saying that he was taking the company plane to Aspen that Friday for a wedding. He would be there for forty-eight hours and he had an extra seat if I wanted to tag along. I had always wanted to fish the High Lonesome Ranch since seeing their presentation at our club several years ago. So I called them and told them my situation and asked if they could accommodate me. Surprisingly, the ranch had no one booked and had given the lodge staff off for that weekend. When I volunteered to find my own place to stay, they could not have been any happier about getting me a guide for the day.

I arrived at the ranch at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Both Buzz, the ranch manager, and Todd, the head guide for fishing and hunting operations, were waiting for me. They opened the lodge tackle shop to let me pick up a few items and Todd and I were off.

The High Lonesome has over 200 square miles of private property with elevations starting around 5,000 feet and reaching to nearly 11,000 feet. There are a series of springs that create a substantial creek that runs several miles through various canyons. Beaver and man-made dams have formed a dozen or so ponds along the way.

We sight-fished for brook trout, browns, Snake River cutthroat, and rainbows using Madam X and various hoppers, usually on a dropper with a larvae imitation trailing eighteen to twenty-four inches behind. At the start of the day, my casting was terrible. But by the end of the day, after nine hours of one-on-one lessons, it became fairly good. I

caught fish on dry flies throughout the day and should have had a grand slam of species, but was unable to get a brownie to the net. The trout were fat and beautiful, and several thought they were acrobats.

Todd is a great guide and instructor and really a good guy to spend a day with fishing. Everyone I talked to on the phone or met at the ranch could not have been nicer. I highly recommend the High Lonesome Ranch as a fly fishing destination and from the bucks I saw, I suspect it is also a great place to pick up a trophy mule deer.



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## **President's Corner**

**by Jerry "Buggywhip" Loring, President of the Texas Flyfishers**

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Every now and then, we are reminded of the fact that humans are not the directors of the play we call our lives, at least not all of the time. Hurricane Rita was one of those times. This may be only the second time when a monthly meeting of the Texas Flyfishers has been canceled. But we had no choice. Logistics involving the speaker were complicated and the hotel was not sure it would have sufficient staff to stay open. There was also a possibility that the hotel would become a refugee station. I sincerely hope everyone got the message about the meeting cancellation and that you and your families are all well. As we know, hurricanes are a fact of life in the Gulf of Mexico. It just goes with the territory.



I spent eighteen days in New Orleans immediately after Hurricane Katrina. As the service manager of a commercial roofing contractor, the days in New Orleans were long and demanding, but emotionally and mentally rewarding. Our company "camp" was at a RV park just west of Hammond, but still fifty-four miles from downtown New Orleans. Our home-away-from-home was a set of four RVs and trailers rented a week before Katrina made landfall. Every day we had to talk our way through several army checkpoints to make it to NOLA to work for our clients. No, it was not as dangerous as the new media portrayed it. Only about twenty percent of the New Orleans metropolitan area was flooded. However, every house or building with a northern exposure had major damage from 120 mile per hour winds.

Just when it looked as though things were going to settle down and the Chuck Scates Benefit Tournament would work its magic, Hurricane Rita rounded the tip of Florida. She moved westward and scuttled the tournament and our monthly meeting. Naturally, this second hurricane kept the roofing work piling on, giving us no allowance for either meetings or fishing. Now, as we are well into the month of October, there is hope of a return to normalcy and of time for TFF meetings and fishing.

As far as TFF goes, there is always a lot of work to be done. We are still searching for a Vice President of Programs. The Fly Tying Festival is scheduled for February and the annual club auction is set for March. The course remains the same and our ship sails ahead. Thank you for your patience.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **The Beginners Fly Tying Course starts January 10, 2006**

The Texas Flyfishers will start their annual Beginners Fly Tying Course on January 10, 2006. This is a ten week course that meets every Monday night at the Bethany Christian Church on Westheimer (between Buffalo Speedway and Kirby) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Registration begins at 6:30 pm on the evening of the first class on January 10<sup>th</sup>. There is a \$25 registration fee.

You do not need to bring tools, as the club makes its kits available. Use of these kits is free of charge, however, we do ask for a \$25 deposit. For your convenience, the club is also selling complete sets of tying materials for \$100. These sets contain all of the materials you will need to tie the various flies taught during the course.

Each class is taught by a different tier and these are some of the finest tiers in Houston.

Contact Frank Schlicht for more information. He may be reached at: 281-392-5296; or: aged\_sage@hotmail.com.

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### **A Note from Saltwater Outings Chair, Scott Fossum**

#### **Port Aransas Jetty Outing – August 2005**

Eight fly fishermen joined guide Lefty Ray Chapa to fish the north jetty at Port Aransas on an overnight trip that took place on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. The water color was great, the weather was great, the tide was moving, and the baitfish were present. We had all the prerequisites for great fishing except gamefish. We fished through the night and the entire group caught two ladyfish.



Some lessons were learned for future trips to the north jetty. Footing is very easy, as the jetty has a concrete walkway. Wading boots are excellent footwear. Don't bring a tent. There were no mosquitoes. With a sleeping pad and a pillow, you can find a comfortable flat spot on the concrete to sleep. Bring double the amount of water that you think you will need. A backpack works great to ferry your gear out along the jetty. If you want to bring a cart, don't bother buying one since the jetty boat ticket office rents them for \$10.

## Hurricane Rita Decimates Saltwater Outings

The Billy Sandifer Surf Fest and the Chuck Scates Benefit Tournament outings, which were both scheduled for the weekend of September 24<sup>th</sup>, were cancelled due to Hurricane Rita. The South Padre Island outing for the weekend of October 1<sup>st</sup> was also cancelled due to the storm.

## 2006 Saltwater Outings Schedule

We desperately need leaders for the trips shown on page 6. You do not need to be an expert to lead the trip. This year's best-led trip was by a new leader, Aaron Hammer. His previous experience was leading a boy scout troop. His basic comment was that the boy scouts follow his orders and that fly fisherman don't.

As the leader of an outing, you will get to answer questions about the things members always ask me:

Q: *Why is the trip on this date?* A: Because as leader I schedule to my schedule.

Q: *Why not have the outing at this other place?* A: Because I don't want to go there.

Q: *Why isn't there a guide?* A: Because I thought you were smart.

Q: *Why is there a guide?* A: Because I thought you were dumb.

Q: *Why are we eating B-B-Q and not Mexican food?* A: Because I like B-B-Q better.

Q: *Why is this a kayak outing?* A: Because I own a kayak.

Q: *Why is this a boat outing?* A: Because I own a boat.

As you can see, the leader is in control of most of the key details. Most questions have to do with personal preference and, as a trip leader, it's your preference that counts. The 2006 schedule is tentative based on our ability to find leaders and their preferred dates. The more of us that step up to be leaders, the more outings we can have. Contact Scott Fossum to sign up. Scott's contact information is listed on the Executive Committee listing on page 6.

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## The Eric Glass Variety Show

By Ralph G. Adams, Jr.

Fishing with Captain Eric Glass is always among the highlights of my angling year. In late September, Scott Fossum joined me for the pilgrimage to the borderlands of Texas and the lower Laguna Madre that are Eric's home waters.

It was a day of variety. Our first stop that morning was the jetty. On the way out from the marina on South Padre Island's Swordfish Street, the bay was painted in fleeting grays and violet tones. We cruised south past the Coast Guard Station and turned east into the protected channel heading towards the open ocean. We bobbed up and down with the swell which wrapped itself around the tip of the jetty rocks. Eric called the conditions "ice cream" and we tried to tempt a tarpon using one of his sparsely-tied streamer flies built on 3/0 Tiemco hooks.



My eyes are untrained at seeing tarpon roll, but both Eric and Scott saw them, as did another guide who was fly fishing nearby. We worked along a color change in the water and did not have the pleasure of hooking anything. Eric wrapped up the jetty session saying that we had given them their fair chance and we left for the backcountry of South Bay.

This was the standard sight-casting fare, with Eric poling the boat through a series of cuts and basins. One particularly wide cut was running with the falling tide which Eric had said would "drop like a stone in the morning." I made long blind-casts that I hoped would impress my boat mates but which proved a mistake as Eric said, "Big snook, directly ahead, real close." I remember thinking that the snook bore a keen resemblance to a duck-billed

platypus and was unable to get a shot to him. I made a frantic attempt, but he was an old and too wise snook. When I looked back at him all that was left was a mud puff.

We hooked a redfish nosing over a bed of eel grass, but lost him after the second run. Then we stowed the rod and ran out of South Bay and into the broad reach between the island and Port Isabel. It was a perfect day tucked just between the Summer and Fall seasons and the boat skimmed the surface and the bay was a bright color jade.

Half-way across the bay, Eric shut down the engine and pointed to a school of jacks moving toward us. In a show of utter generosity, Scott Fossum surrendered what was rightly his shot. I skirted my regular affliction of buck-fever which has coincided with finally getting a chance at similarly much-anticipated, clean, and easy shots at magnificent gamefish caught in the act. I watched their approach, and heard a voice prompting me to get ready and strip out line for the cast. My casting went on autopilot and I landed the fly ahead of them and let it sink a moment before initiating the kind of frantic retrieve intended to imitate a critter that had run out of future.

I made four shots to the passing school and I had four shots chased as though to strike, and each of them declined. There's no need to be ashamed or feel foolish. Guides, like trusted doctors, respect the private consultation of their practice and the experienced ones have seen it all. Eric started the engine looking upright towards where the school vanished in the glare and summed it up saying, "You were robbed."

We took revenge on the redfish. It was a pleasant afternoon spent in what Eric calls, the "real deal" of drifting the flats and puzzling through the challenges of catching cruising redfish in crystal clear water. We used size four and six weighted crab patterns tied like redfish bugs in drab tones with points of color tossed in, and we aspired to follow Eric's keen instruction to cast ahead of the fish and to pause long enough for the fly to sink to the bottom. Then, we were to give a long, slow strip – a true strip, mind you, and not a pull of the rod or a lurch caused by a dragging belly of fly line – followed by a pronounced stop! That combination itself should do the trick. If the fish didn't strike at that point, we were to strip again ending with another complete stop of the fly. The key, according to the captain, was to make sure that the fly stopped completely between strips.



This is no mean feat to coordinate from a moving platform on a boat. The afternoon wind of the lower Laguna Madre roars out of Mexico with, as the old sailors said, 'a bone in her teeth,' and compels the skiff to make at least a couple of knots headway. And then, of course, the fish tend to swim into or towards the wind and the pause to let the bug sink risks creating a belly in the fly line that undermines the Glass Method of presenting to cruising redfish.

Scott and I caught some large and beautiful redfish and enjoyed the pattern of running the boat followed by drifting and fishing, and then running again followed by still more drifting and fishing. The green-tinted waters of the lower Laguna have a mesmerizing quality. The sightlines approach infinity and the scenery is a landscape of desolation and the antique. You find yourself hoping that it stays that way. Especially when you come across a dozen or so cases of stingrays, as we did, flanked by one and two redfish, sniffing over the sand like bird dogs and playing a tune that translates if only you follow the captain's orders and cast the fly ahead of them, and let it sink to the bottom, and give it a long, slow strip, followed by a complete stop.

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## WIND KNOTS CLASSIFIEDS

Space permitting, we'll run "Wanted" and "For Sale" ads for members of Texas Flyfishers. On a case-by-case basis, we may also run ads from non-members if the goods or services sought or offered would be of interest to our members. Send your ad by e-mail to [ralphnchristineadams@earthlink.net](mailto:ralphnchristineadams@earthlink.net) or regular mail to Ralph Adams, 4019 Levonshire, Houston, TX 77025. You may include a photograph of items to be sold if you like.

### FOR SALE - 3 WT. ROD & REEL OUTFIT

Rod: Scott SAS-653 3 wt – 7ft, medium fast  
Reel: Okuma Sierra 4/5 with Backing & 1 extra spool  
Line: Scientific Angler Headstart WF4F, Color: optic yellow

Great outfit for bream & close-in trout fishing, a \$300+ value, asking \$150.  
Call Jack Klinger at 713-816-5574 or e-mail: [klinger-j@sbcglobal.net](mailto:klinger-j@sbcglobal.net)

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# 2005 Fall Kayak Demo Days

Friday - Sunday, October 28 – 30, 2005

*8:30 am – 6:00 pm Fri & Sat*

*10:00 am to 3:00 pm Sun*

**12800 Gulf Freeway @ Fuqua**

- **Family Fun & Kayak Fishing Information** – Kayak races & games
- **Book Signing** with Capt Ken Daubert on Friday 4 pm – 6 pm
- **Manufacturer's Representatives and Pro Staff** – Wilderness Systems Kayaks, AT Paddles, Thule, Heritage Kayaks, Creative Feathers, Bending Branches, Scientific Angler, Gloomis, Sage, Scott, TFO and more
- **FREE Seminars** by some of the industries most experienced professionals.
- **Paddling and Conservation Groups** will be there with information about group trips and other resources for Kayak Anglers.
- Enter drawings for **Free Merchandise**.
- **Food, Fun & Prizes!!!**

## FREE SEMINARS – Saturday & Sunday

**Kayak Fishing for Bass** – *Capt Ken Daubert author of Kayakfishing: The Revolution*

**Lure Selection for Redfish & Trout** – *Capt Everett Johnson, Gulf Coast Connections Magazine*

**Boat Selection and Rigging for Kayak Fishing** – *Capt Scott Null w/Wilderness Systems Kayak Fishing Team & Gulf Coast Connections Magazine*

**How to Choose a Paddle for Recreational Kayaking** – *Eric Evans, AT Paddles*

**Using Aerial Maps** – *Jerry Moldin w/Shoreline Publishing*

**Kayak Fishing 101** – *Benny Landrum & Phil Perry (Coastalkayakangler.com)*

**Choosing Equipment for Outdoor Photography** – *Jim Olive, Photographer (Stockyard.com)*

**Tournament Rigging Your Kayak** – *Tom Stubblefield (Texaskayakfisherman.com)*

**Fly Casting Basics** – *Andy Packmore (Travelin' Angler)*

**Fly Tying Basics** – *John Carpenter (flatshunterflys.com)*

## 2005 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

Our outings schedule is a work-in-progress. Here are the trips we have currently scheduled for 2005. Sometimes dates and places change, so check here regularly. **Blue font indicates a change has been made since the last issue of *Wind Knots*.**

To volunteer as a trip leader, contact fresh water outings chairman Clarke Thornton or salt water outings chairman Scott Fossum. Their telephone numbers and email addresses are on the Executive Committee listing below. Fresh water trips are designated [F], salt water [S] in the listings below.

**October 29, 2005. Seven Lakes at Damon, Damon, Texas. Bass & Panfish [F].**

**November 6, 2005. Guadalupe River, Sattler, Texas. Trout [F]**

**December 2005. No outings.**

## 2006 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

**March – Port Mansfield. Leader needed. [S]**

**April - Aransas Pass – B&R Flats Leader needed. [S]**  
Kayak trip in Lighthouse lakes. Kayak rental available nearby.

**May - Aransas Pass – Lighthouse Lakes Leader needed. [S]**  
Kayak trip in Lighthouse lakes. Kayak rental available nearby.

**June - Leader needed. [S]**  
Destination by leader

**July – Port O'Connor One Fly Tournament[S]**  
Rotating crystal trophy up for grabs. Greatest total inches of fish caught on 1st fly tied on wins. Boat or kayak needed.

**August - Redfish Rodeo [S]**

**September - Padre Island surf fest - Leader needed. [S]**

**October - South Padre Island - Leader needed. [S]**

**November – Nighthawk Bay - Leader needed. [S]**

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## TEXAS FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **Jerry Loring**

*President*  
Home: 713-464-8687  
Cell: 713-875-4289  
jerrytms@flash.net

### **Corey Rich**

*Legal*  
Work: 713-861-1928  
Home: 713-621-6071  
corey.rich@aya.yale.edu

### **Frank Schlicht**

*Education / Fly Tying Festival*  
Home: 281-392-5296  
aged\_sage@hotmail.com

### **[Position Vacant]**

*VP Programs*

### **Clarke Thornton**

*Freshwater Outings*  
Work: 713-512-3657  
Home: 713-641-0022  
cthorton@ehshouston.org

### **Norbert Burch**

*Webmaster*  
Work: 281-589-4941  
Home: 281-265-5156  
tff.webmaster@texasflyfishers.org

### **Mark Jones**

*Secretary / Membership*  
Home: 713-466-1539  
mdjones54@hotmail.com

### **Scott Fossum**

*Saltwater Outings*  
Work: 281-604-4949  
Home: 281-480-6053  
scott.fossum@akzonobel-pc.com

### **Mike Willis**

*Special Events*  
Work: 713-223-7041  
Home: 713-721-4755  
mwillis@us.ca-indosuez.com

### **Rick Rawls**

*Treasurer / Auction*  
Work: 713-666-7100  
Home: 713-830-5446  
rick@parkatbellaire.com

### **Ralph G. Adams, Jr.**

*Wind Knots*  
Work: 713-767-8039  
Home: 713-664-0491  
ralphnchristineadams@earthlink.net

### **Troy Miller**

*Fly Casting*  
Work: 713-466-2322  
Home: 979-865-5117  
Troy.Miller@bakeroiltools.com

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## **About *Wind Knots***

*Wind Knots* is your monthly newsletter, and it needs your help – otherwise we'll run out of things to print. E-mail your articles, photos, artwork, graphics, fishing news, tall tales, lies, and letters to the editor to [ralphchristineadams@earthlink.net](mailto:ralphchristineadams@earthlink.net) not later than the 10th of the month for that month's issue. **Be sure to put the words *Wind Knots* in the subject line of your e-mail.** If you don't, I might think it's spam or worse and delete it before opening.

If you have digital photos, please send them via e-mail in .JPG format. If you have paper photos, mail them to Corey Rich, 2900 Wesleyan, Suite 545, Houston, TX 77027. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return.

The preferred form for text – stories, letters, and so forth – is in Microsoft Word. Please try to keep your offerings in the 800 to 1,000 word range, or less. If you send photos along with an article, proposed captions are appreciated.

*Wind Knots* is posted on the club's Web site as soon as it becomes available. Check [www.texasflyfishers.org](http://www.texasflyfishers.org) regularly for the latest newsletter and other news of interest.

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Texas Flyfishers  
P.O. Box 571134  
Houston, TX 77257-1134

## Texas Flyfishers Membership Application

Please check one:    New Application       Renewal

To join Texas Flyfishers or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below, or bring it with you to one of our monthly meetings. All memberships expire June 30th of each year, and renewals are due July 1st. New members, please pro-rate your payment for the number of months between now and the end of June, inclusive. Our monthly meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month (except December), beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Dues are for (check one):    Individual at \$24 a year       Family at \$32 a year       Student at \$16 a year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

TEXAS FLYFISHERS  
P.O. BOX 571134  
HOUSTON, TX 77257-1134