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


September Meeting

Date: September 24, 1985
Place: St. John's Episcopal Church
Room 010, Education Bldg.
River Oaks and Westheimer
Time: 7:00...Fit To Be Tied...The Hackle Streamer
7:30...Main Program.....Fly-fishing Alaska
Ray Brauer, Joe Doggett, Bill Bush


August Meeting

A wide variety of casting techniques were on display at the August casting clinic. There were tight loops, loose loops, and fruit loops; and while not everyone can cast like Chris Phillips, there was one common denominator among the 70 people present; they all had a fine time. 

Fly-tying

As we predicted, Ed Rizzolo's beginners' classes filled up in one day. If you are interested in these sessions which begin in January, call Ed at 643-5775 (h) and he will put you on a waiting list. 

Conservation

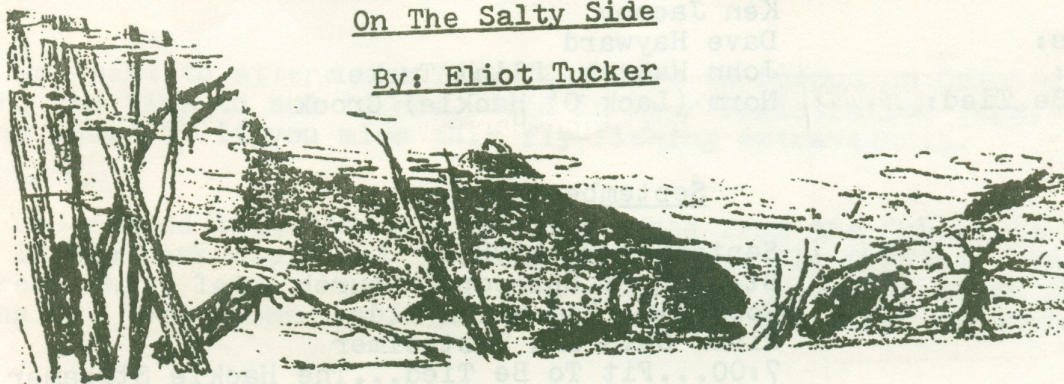
Charlie Weems has received a letter from Robert McCurdy in which Robert indicates that he continues to fight the battle for the Colorado River and is feeling confident that some good things will happen at the hearings this winter. He asks that we all write the governor and ask him to appoint a conservation and environmental person to the vacancy at the Texas Water Commission. 

More Conservation

Brooks Bouldin says that the state has closed the fish hatchery at San Marcos and this will have an effect on the Guadalupe. State-planted trout will now come directly from the federal hatchery in Arkansas, and without time spent at San Marcos, will tend to be small when put in the river. Texas Trout Unlimited will be meeting on October 5th to decide whether to purchase larger trout for planting at the lease. See Brooks if you have questions or comments.

On The Salty Side

By: Eliot Tucker



Port Aransas (Third and final installment)

Another favorite of fly fishers is the flat across the Aransas Channel from the road between Aransas Pass and Port Aransas. This flat is across the Aransas Channel from Redfish Bay Marina. The first salt-water fish I ever caught on a fly fell to my yellow streamer here. It was a five inch trout that probably bit the fly in self-defense.


Between buoy 8 and Corpus Christi Bayou there are as many as seven cuts that drain and flood the flat. These are fish highways that are easily seen on a very low tide. Mark their precise location, then wait for a high tide to fish them.

The third area is on chart 11308. The green area, and particularly the area around the islands, holds fewer but bigger redfish than the area behind the lighthouse. The fish are harder to spot here. I think it must be because the bottom grasses are darker. This area is hard to get into. The oilwell cut that runs past the three islands on the chart is there, but beyond that, you are on your own. There are some channels but they are easy to miss. Fish it on a very high tide in a boat with a very shallow draft. You won't catch as many redfish, but you will remember every one.

Another spot to try is just to the south. Shamrock Island and

Shamrock Cove are well known for producing trout. You won't be alone here.

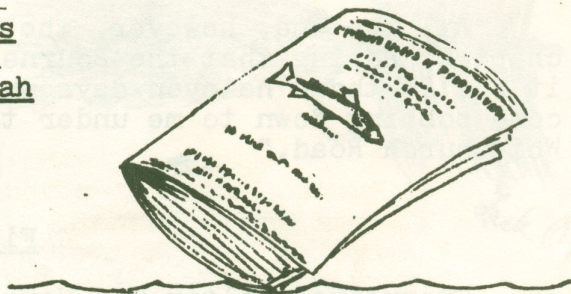
Finally, the area to the right (north) of the cut labeled Long Cove on the chart is characterized by oilwell cuts through grassy flats. The cuts make this area easy to get into. The water in this area is not as clear as the other areas, but it can hold good redbfish and trout on a high tide. Long Cove is a good launch point when fishing this third area. Its east end is across the Mustang Island road from the Seagull Condominiums. There is a gate on the dirt road to the cove. To get to the cove, you have to get past the gate. It's not much of a problem. Though there has always been a gate there, there has never been a fence!

Next month: Orvis' new commitment to saltwater fly fishing. 



Book Reviews

By: John Hannah



Where The Bright Waters Meet, by Harry Plunket-Greene. Part 2.

Harry Plunket-Greene says that the Test is the king, and the Bourne the queen, of all English trout streams.

Having recently fished some of America's spring creeks while still in their prime (if not while in mine) I was especially interested in this book about the spring-fed waters of Hampshire. The Bourne was Plunket-Greene's first love and his book is partly a lament to a lost love. The Bourne was lost to him because of mismanagement and greed by the owners of the river, and he fully confesses to his own complicity.

The chapter about the tragedy of the Bourne should be required reading for anybody responsible for stream protection. During the winter of 1904-5 the misguided owners stocked the river with thousands of yearling and two-year-old trout. The result was starvation for these trout as well as for the resident fish. The river never returned to its former quality as a fishery. And scarcely less valuable lessons are taught by Plunket-Greene's accounts of the effects of pollution on the Hampshire streams.

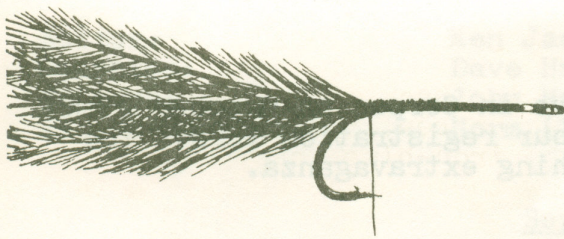
But don't get the impression that Where the Bright Waters Meet is grim reading. On the contrary, P-G tells many happy stories about

FIT TO BE TYED

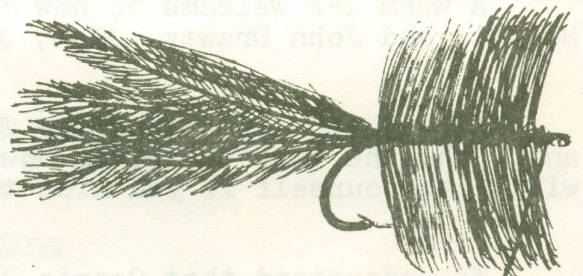


It seems as though the summer doldrums will never end. Water temperatures in the Bays nearly approach the relative humidity level which hasn't been too far below the ambient air temperature. Red fish like their surroundings a little more moderate so while you're waiting for the weather to cool off a tad here's a fly you can tie to wile away the dog days in preparation for some fun on the flats. Its easy to tie. Though not as spectacular as watching a red bust a BetterBug on the surface they are a fishgetter. The original Hackle Fly was tied and fished by Lefty Kreh. Show me a better endorsement if you need one. The best color combinations are orange and yellow with gold flashabou, hot pink and white with gold & pearlescent flashabou. Trout will go for red and white with silver flash-abou.

In tying, the tail and front hackle should be the same color - you'll need yellow and orange neck or saddle hackles, super thread, mustad hook No. 34007 sizes 2 through 2/0

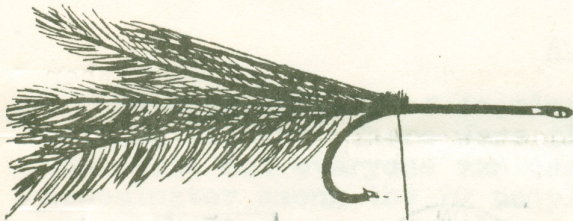


Select 6 to 8 yellow hackles 2 to 2½ times the length of the hook shank, tie in above the hook point. Cement.



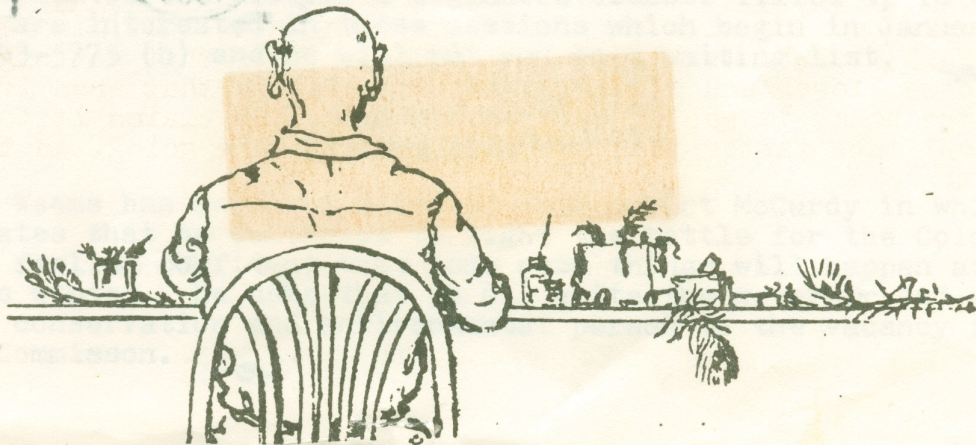
hack O' hackle

Tie in 4 or 5 orange hackles concave side forward and wrap each to the mid point of the shank, then tie in 4 or 5 yellow hackles and wrap forward to the eye, tie off and whip finish.



Tie in 10 or 12 strands gold flashabou on top of the tail. They should only be 2/3 tail length.

The heavy compact hackle on this Hackle Streamer creates a turbulence in the water that gets the fishes attention. For the best action strip it in short fast strips.



FIT TO BE TIED

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Want Ads

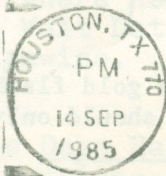
John Scarborough has two rods for sale. Both are Orvis and they are \$150.00 each, two for \$300.00. One is a Powerhouse, 8 1/2/8 wt, 2 piece. The other is an Allarounder, 8'2"/7 wt, 4 piece. They come with cases. Call El Presidente at 461-2855 (o) or 465-5196 (h). These are two really good deals.

Loose Hooks

A warm TFF welcome to new members: Raymond Derrick, William Heugel, and John Drawtz. Also, James Giles.

If you want to attend the Texas Conclave in Corpus on October 25th and 26th, the time to act is now. Send in your registration form. You will hate yourself if you miss this fly-fishing extravaganza.

We understand that Connie Burke has moved from the Catskills but is still in New York state and is still doing some fly-fishing. Connie, if you read this, let us hear from you. The same goes for Leigh Shuman, Herb Penning, Norm Thompson, Roger Rowe, and all the other expatriots.



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