

WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 34, Issue 9, September 2015

The Legend of the Redfish Rodeo

As told by noted fly fishing legend Jerry Loring

The Inaugural Redfish Rodeo was the brain child of twelve local fly fishers. It was held in 1986 in Port O'Connor, Texas. The prize was only for the longest redfish, but it is understood that there might have been a side bet or two. Being catch and release, there had to be some honesty check and that's what brought about the two person team concept. The partners were not true partners as each fished to win the prize and could not help the other. The following year, the Redfish Rodeo moved to Rockport.

In 1988, the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (now CCA) started a fly fishing tournament in Port O'Connor. Since all twelve founders of the Redfish Rodeo were GCCA members, they opted to drop their tournament and support the GCCA. All the GCCA tournaments were held in Port O'Connor, which continued until 1995. In 1995, the Texas FlyFishers ran the tournament for GCCA, using their name. The next year GCCA informed TFF they could not use the GCCA name, but could use it as a benefactor.

So in beginning in 1996, the Texas FlyFishers returned the tournament to its original name, Redfish Rodeo. Over the years, the Redfish Rodeo has moved back and forth between Port O'Connor and Rockport with its primary purpose to educate the public about catch and release.

Come join us for our 29th Annual Red Fish Rodeo to be held in Rockport, Texas on Saturday, October 10th, 2015, The Redfish Rodeo is a one day, fly only, catch and release contest, open to fly fishers from all over. The festivities will kick off Friday evening, October 9th, 2015, with the Captain's meeting at Paradise Key Dockside Bar Grill, beginning at 7:30 PM (optional dinner at 6:00 pm).

Also, in this month's issue...

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| • What's Happening this Month – P.I.N.S., Monthly Meeting, Conservation, Outings | Page 2 |
| • Know Your FlyFisher <i>New</i> – Club President Marcos Enriquez | Page 5 |
| • What Happening Elsewhere this Month – IFFF Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishing Fair | Page 6 |
| • What's Coming Up –Outings, Oktoberfisch, TFF October Monthly Meeting | Page 6 |
| • Outing Reports – San Marcos River, Anahuac Flats, 2015 Mini Expo | Page 7 |
| • Interesting Fishing Facts by Scott Fossum | Page 12 |
| • Fly Of The Month – Casey Smartt's Deadhead Minnow | Page 13 |



The Legend of the Redfish Rodeo *Continued:*

Fishing begins at 6:30 am on Saturday morning and goes until everyone meets up at Drifters Resort for the “weigh in” followed by a BBQ supper served up by the Texas FlyFishers. Prizes will be awarded for Longest Redfish, the Longest Trout, the longest Three Fish Slam (redfish, trout, and flounder) and the Most Spots on a Redfish along with some great door and raffle prizes.

So, make your plans to be in Rockport October 9th and 10th to be of the 29th Annual Red Fish Rodeo sponsored by the Texas FlyFishers. You’ll be glad you did!

For more information, contact Michael Quigley at (SevenOneThree) 213-8150 or, mfquigley (at) yahoo (dot) com

But, before the Rodeo, *Let’s talk about P.I.N.S.!*

The Annual PINS Safari to Padre Island, TX is scheduled for Friday, September 11th through Sunday, September 13th, 2015. If you’ve never been to Padre Island National Seashore, here is your chance to experience the beauty of this one of a National Parks and also fish some of the most productive waters along the Texas Coast.

If you are wondering about the trip, well... We will take four-wheel drive vehicles down Padre Island National Seashore during the annual glass minnow (sea anchovy) migration, and target blitzing schools of ladyfish, jacks, redfish, tarpon, sharks and who knows what else.

Based on last year’s experiences... The plan is to depart from Malaquite Visitors Center (Park Headquarters) on Friday at noon and fish our way down to **Mile Marker 40 (±)** where we’ll set up our first night camp site. We may be able to get by Big Shell by taking the high road. VHF radios on channel 69 (for now). Friday low tides are at 09:32 and 21:15.

Bright and early Saturday morning, we’ll begin the run to the Port Mansfield jetties, fishing there and back up to a camp spot between the **MM 40** and 30. Sunday morning, after breakfast and breaking camp, we’ll fish our way back to Malaquite to unload and enjoy a well-deserved shower before heading back to Houston, sometime around 2:00 pm.

For more information, times, location and directions contact the Outing Leader at (2 ate won) 8 six five - 32 one six, or at his e-mail - doncpuckett at geemale dot com

Note: If you notice, we have listed some e-mail addresses that might look a little different. This is our attempt to try and ward off the spammers. We have tried to make them as understandable as possible. Please bear with us.

Coming in the October Windknots – You’ll have to wait and see!

Windknots

What's Happening This Month:

Monthly Meeting:

September Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, September 29th, 2015 – This month's featured Speaker will be Capt. Scott Null. From Capt. Scott, "I never fully know what I'm going to get into until I get going, but in general we'll be talking redfish in Texas & Louisiana, changing my base locations to POC/Seadrift, Crack flies and their variations and future plans for running near shore trips out of POC for pelagic species. Just a big ol' soup of topics".



Doors open at 6:00 pm and the social begins immediately after the seating has been set up. The meeting kicks off around 7:00 pm with introductions, club business and the reports. Immediately following the drawing for door prizes, Capt. Scott will begin with his program. The Texas FlyFishers meet at the Community Center Building in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas 77074

Education:

Currently, there are no classes currently scheduled.

Conservation:

This year, the Bahamian government, its citizens, local businesses, tourism booking agents, independent fly fishing guides, and foreign-owned or -influenced fly fishing lodges have become embroiled in a debate over what an outsider might deem a seemingly innocuous piece of draft legislation released in mid-June, titled the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act. At the center of the controversy are the Bahamas Fly Fishing Industry Association (BFFIA) and its president, Prescott Smith, a well-known fly fishing guide.

Several lodges, guides, small businesses and booking entities have issued a "call to action" regarding dangerous new fisheries regulations and legislation that is being proposed by a small number of short-sighted, anti-foreign guides that aim to regulate fishing access in the Bahamas and actually prohibit foreign-owned fishing lodges throughout the Bahamas. The proposed legislation holds the potential to cause a great deal of turmoil throughout the Bahamas, a longstanding favorite destination among anglers from around the world. The language of the proposed legislation states that new regulations should be put into place to "*ensure the marine environments upon which the fishery is based, are protected.*" Apparently the Bahamas believes attempting to evict the very lodges, guides and anglers that are the stewards of the resource is the way to grow their fishing tourism industry? But, the majority of guides and outfitters throughout the Bahamas feel that nothing could be further from the truth and, that the Government of the Bahamas is about to make a monumental error in judgment.

Posted on the latest issue of *MidCurrent*, an independent website dedicated to providing up to date fly fishing news and information, is a two part commentary on the current situation in the Bahamas entitled "Battle for Bonefish and the Bahamas" by Beau Beasley. This is an extensive read but, I think you will find it informative. I have posted the link below and I hope you take the time to visit the site and look at the articles. *Thanks, Mike.*

<http://midcurrent.com/travel/battle-for-bonefish-and-the-bahamas-part-1/>

<http://midcurrent.com/travel/the-battle-for-bonefish-and-the-future-of-the-bahamas-part-2/>



Monthly Fly Tying:

Katy Navy Fly Tying Group – Join us on September 22nd, 2015. The group will be tying the "Dirty Pumpkin" with Capt. Steve Soule. "The Shallowist" sitting in as our guest tyer. For time, location and directions contact Don "Puck" Puckett at (2 ate won) 8 six five - 32 one six, or at his e-mail - doncpuckett at geemale dot com

Reel Recovery:

On behalf of Mike Emerson and our TFF Reel Recovery Team, we thank all the TFF members for the generous 2015 donation of \$2,000 at the July meeting. This donation will be used for the 2016 Houston RR Retreat fund! This level of donation will sponsor 3 men at the retreat. Every member of TFF shares in helping support these men with cancer through these fly fishing retreats aimed at providing these men with more hope and courage. Thank you!!

Final efforts continue to fill the October Navasota Retreat with 14-15 participants. Currently, we have 13 participant applications, but would like to have 17 (15. plus a couple reserves). So, please help us spread the invitation to any man you know recovering from cancer, *any stage, any type*. Also, we would certainly welcome any TFF member to be a retreat participant this year.

Just advise any man interested to go to Reel Recovery website at reelrecovery.org then, select **Programs** and from the drop down, select **Application** to submit an application for the October 9 – 11, 2015, Navasota Retreat or, any of the other retreats they desire. Remember, these retreats are at no cost to the participant. **The fall retreat dates are Navasota TX, Oct 9-11, 2015 and Glen Rose, TX, Oct 23-25, 2015.**

If any of you wish to volunteer to help at the Navasota retreat, please contact me at 713-202-0101. I would like to have a couple "reserve volunteers" for the purpose of Fishing Buddy at the retreat. *Dave Steffek*

Outings:

September Saltwater Outing – Annual PINS Safari, Padre Island, TX – Friday - Sunday, September 11th -13th, 2015. See information above. For more information, times, location and directions contact the Outing Leader Don "Puck" Puckett at (2 ate won) 8 six five - 32 one six, or his e-mail is doncpuckett at geemale

September Freshwater Outing – Saturday, September 26th, 2015, Fishing the Sabine River below the Generation Canal. This will be a joint outing with the Texas FlyFishers and the Contraband Fly Casters out of Lake Charles, LA.

We plan to fish the generation canal, but if (when) the generators start up, we will quickly shift our efforts to the east branch, locally known as "Coldwater." Species targeted are largemouth bass, Kentucky largemouth bass, yellow sunfish, white bass, gar (3 species), catfish (2 species) and if extremely lucky striped bass.

Launch and take-out will be the either the new boat launch on the generation canal, or the boat launch at Pool 2 at "Coldwater". Starting time is 7:00 am and we'll plan to fish until it's too dark to fish.

The Trip Leader is Don "Puck" Puckett and he can be reached at (2 ate won) 8 six five - 32 one six, or at his e-mail - doncpuckett at geemale dot com

Note from the Outing Leader: I plan to camp a few miles away from the launch site at TBARS. *Puck*

Know Your Texas FlyFisher: - New



“Know Your Texas FlyFisher” has been added to Windknots to introduce the readers to our fellow members and hopefully give the readers a little insight into the persona and “character” of our fellow members. The plan is to begin with the club officers and various department or event chairs and, who better to begin with that our own club President, Marcos Enriquez. I hope you enjoy.
Chris

I was born and raised in Alamogordo, New Mexico, home to the Sacramento Mountains and the waters of Benito and Alto Lakes where the fish were plentiful. I moved to Dallas, Texas in 1986 to start my career as a funeral director where I worked at Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home. Fishing was always a hobby

and now the Texas waters and surrounding states allowed me new fishing opportunities. A weekend invitation to fly fish in Mountain Home Arkansas was the trip where I “caught the bug” and I was “hooked”.

I soon joined the Dallas Flyfishers Club after watching Jimmy Nix do a fly tying demonstration at Hunter Bradley’s fly shop. While in Dallas, I learned to fly fish for striper below Lake Texoma, and learned to do bass fishing from Cary Marcus, who at the time was working at Hunter Bradley. I frequented both the Orvis Shop managed by the infamous angler, Dave Hayward and the Angler Edge Store managed by Brooks Bouldin. They both encouraged me to join the Texas Flyfishers, a club I have now been an 11 year member.

After joining the Texas Flyfishers, I found the various outing allowed me to expand my salt water fishing destinations. I actively promoted the Texas Conclave, where I interacted with such greats as Joan Wulff, Gary Borger, and Brian O’Keefe. Later that year I had the pleasure of meeting Dave Whitlock and Chico Fernandez at Anglers Edge in Houston, Texas.

Dave Hayward introduced me to Galveston and saltwater fly fishing and after my first excursion, and I discovered I had a lot to learn. When I recounted my experience to Dave, he invited me on a trip to Port O’Connor, Texas with the fly club. The experience of fishing the flats with a fly rod kept me going back again, and again, and again throughout the years and there are not enough words or time to tell my over 20 years of fly fishing adventures and the friends I have made.

I am currently employed with Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Houston and, if you can’t find me there, I’ll be pursuing redfish on my Standup Paddle Board somewhere along the Texas coast.





Below are is list of a few of my history highlights:

- Fun Ed Instructor, Dallas, Texas
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Certified Instructor for Angler Education Program
- Federation of Fly Fishers Speaker's Bureau Member
- Fly Fishing the Texas Coast Book Contributor
- Managed Austin and Houston Orvis Stores
- President of Texas Flyfishers

Tight lines!

Non-Club Events This Month:

Happy Hour at Orvis Houston - Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm., 5727 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77057, (713) 783-2111. Call for dates.

2015 IFFF Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishing Fair is scheduled for September 18th & 19th, 2015 at the Civic Center in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. If you have ever thought about learning to fly fish in Salt Water, Warm Water or Cold Water, or just improving your skills, then this is your opportunity to learn from many of the best instructors in the country! There will be presentations on fly fishing specific areas and species, as well as continuous Fly Tying Demonstrations provided by many of the best fly tyers in six states. We will also have fly casting instructions provided by Certified and Master Casting Instructors from across the South, in one of the finest casting faculties in the country. There will also be auctions & raffles for rods, reels, equipment, guided trips and artwork, with 50% of the proceeds to be donated to the USM - Gulf Coast Research Lab's Conservation / Research programs.

For more information, check the council's website at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/>

Mark Your Calendar: Coming Events

October Saltwater Outing – The Redfish Rodeo, Rockport Bay, Texas, October 9th (Registration and Captains meeting) & 10th (Fishing and Awards), 2015. Come join us for our 29th Annual Red Fish Rodeo. We are inviting fly fishers from all over Texas to participate. For time, location and directions contact the Outing Leader and event organizer, Michael Quigley - mfquigley (at) yahoo (dot) com

October Freshwater Outing – Oktoberfish Fly Fishing Festival, October 16-18, 2015. This event is held in Morgan Shady RV Park, Junction, Texas 76849. along the banks of the Llano River – For additional information, oktoberfish@hotmail.com, www.fredericksburgflyfishers.org, Gene Smith at eight30-997-888one, Bruce Ward at 83zero-45six-220one or, Don "Puck Puckett – doncpuckett at geemale dot com

October Freshwater Outing 2 – Back to Damon 7 Lakes on Saturday, October 24th, 2015. Damon 7 Lakes is located just past Damon, Texas. The fishing will kick off at 7:00 am and go until it's too dark to fish. Cost is \$40.00 per person. Outing Leader is Russell Cowart, (71 three) 2 zero 8 (dash) 33 two 0, e-mail: RCowart (at) eprod (dot) com *More to come in the October Windknots.*

October TFF Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, October 27th, 2015. Club Member Jerry Brown's presentation will tell us about traveling to fly fishing destinations and, avoiding some of the pitfalls. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting officially begins around 7:00 pm. At the Community Center Building in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas 77074



Hold my beer and watch this!

Nine On-Board Safety Reminders for Labor Day Boaters

Follow Coast Guard on-board requirements: Not only can having items like a horn or whistle, a charged fire extinguisher, navigation lights and life jackets potentially thwart a disaster, but not having them can result in hefty fines from the Coast Guard. Make sure to check the entire list of requirements before you head out to open water.

Conduct a thorough inspection of your vessel: Before you even turn on the engine, check your hull for cracks and holes and inspect the scuppers and Bilge Pump. This is especially easy to do if your vessel is on a boat lift.

Know the waterways you're cruising: Nothing ruins a day on the water faster than running aground; not to mention the potential damage it can do to your vessel. Keep nautical maps of your local waterways on board to navigate around the areas where you might run into trouble.

Have multiple means of communication on board: Cell phone signal can easily drop on the water, especially if you're offshore fishing or far away from land. To make sure you have a reliable means of communication, have a CB Radio on board. VHF will keep you connected at least with other boaters, should you run into trouble.

Make sure your batteries are sufficiently charged and in proper working order: Don't skimp on this - a dead battery is the last thing you want to find 15 minutes offshore. When you do check your batteries, you should also inspect all cables for corrosion.

Keep emergency kits on board: First Aid kits, jump boxes and flares prove to be life savers every year. They should be on your vessel at all times.

BYOC – Bring Your Own Captain: Have a designated captain if you intend to indulge in alcoholic beverages.

Have all the applicable permits and licenses: This is especially important if you are a fisherman. Not having the right documentation can not only lead to fines, it can also cost you your vessel.

Attain or renew a Sea Tow or Boat US membership: This is the single best piece of advice any boater can be given. The cost of a tow is staggering if you have no membership, and no one wants to be stuck at sea for hours on end.

Provided courtesy Craig Wood, CEO Hi-Tide Boat Lifts

Outings Reports: Most of what you will read here is true.

August Freshwater Outing: San Marcos River August 8th, 2015, Outing Leaders: Skip and Mary Kay Donovan, Guide: Kevin Hutchison, Hill County Fly Fishers

Camping:

The Texas FlyFishers started showing up at Spencer's Shady Grove Campground right around 1300 with the last of the 7 campers showing up just before dark. We took over one campsite and the pavilion as we sprawled out, 5 tent cots, one tent mansion, and one truck tent. Dinner for the night was whatever we brought, and that ranged from



Windknots

BBQ sandwiches to beef stroganoff.

Pat, the owner can over and visited with us for a while. Her campgrounds are clean and well maintained. She has rules in place that make sure that her grounds are family friendly. We watched as one of those rules were enforced, and quietly toasted her strength around the campfire. She is a true Texan.



Ken had seen some of us before, but I think this is the first time he joined an outing. Skip and Mary-Kay, John, Mike, Rene, and Puck rounded out the campers.

The TFF'ers sat around the campfire and swapped stories until about 2200. Thanks for the pecan wood, John.

The weather was still warm, but not stifling hot, as it had been before. Most of the campers had brought fans, and one of us had done his research and brought a 120V fan and an electric coffee pot.

Fishing Day:

Breakfast:

The first coffee pot started brewing at about 0400, and all the campers were up and having breakfast and coffee at about 0500 around the rekindled campfire. Once we had enough light most of us started breaking camp. That was about the same time that the rest of the anglers started arriving. 2 new faces, Doug, and Marco, were part of this group. The TFF'ers quickly swelled to 17 total.

Start out:

Kevin held court at the launch site describing the plan, handing out commemorative t-shirts, flies, and a fresh 2X leader.



Kevin's plan was to get the kayaks staged at the launch point, get the cars to the take-out, and shuttle back for a launch. This worked out perfectly, and we were on the water by 0900.



Kevin's raft, with Skip and Mary-Kay, would lead the group to the lunch spot. Don't get ahead of Kevin, or there is a possibility of missing lunch. Skip was one of those that actually caught fish.

Terri, with Michael and Jennifer, who paid for on the water instruction, on the raft, would bring up the rear of the group and set the pace. I saw Michael on the oars working the banks. The goal was to stay in front of Terri.

As we finally got on the water our flotilla now consisted of 2 rafts, and 13 kayaks.

Windknots



As we floated we were able to see some of the damage that was done during the latest floods.

Lunch and beyond:

The water was fast, clean and cool at the launch all the way to the lunch spot.

The gourmet lunch, pasta salad, 3 or 4 different kinds of chicken, humus, melon, pineapple,

cookies, etc. I really have to ask others what all was there, as there was plenty of food, and not everybody could sample everything provided. This meal was served with plastic plates and cutlery, a welcome change from paper plates, and sandwiches. Kevin and Terri even brought out tables and chairs.



Three of our group had been dumped from their kayaks, with a broken rod being the only casualty, besides wounded pride.

While we were at lunch we saw a swamped canoe with a young man hanging on. A few TFF jumped in to help the young man. His canoe partner floated into sight a few minutes later. We were able to get the young men calmed down, cleaned up, and back on the water in just a few minutes. This was part of the Boy Scout troop that left after we did that day.

Kevin also gave an impromptu casting demonstration. Puck has the video and will work on it later.

Fish were caught, and pictures were taken.

Everybody was off the river 16:30 hrs.

Flies that worked:

Swamp Monster
Foxy Clouser
Hare-E
Wooly bugger, size 6
And many others.



Windknots

August Saltwater Outing: Anahuac Flats- August 29th, 2015 Outing Leader: Michael Quigley

On a beautiful late August morning, 13 intrepid souls headed east to Trinity Bay in the far NE corner of the



Galveston Bay complex for a bit of fun. The conditions were nearly perfect with almost no wind and low humidity. Most of us brought kayaks, though there was a skiff or two as well. At around 7:30 we headed out in search of our quarry. The fish were on and off most of the morning. After a long day of fishing, most of us reported at least something caught. Numerous ladyfish, several gar, a few nice reds, some rat reds, a couple of sheepshead and a spooked stingray were reported. Surprisingly, no flounder fell that day. Bill Leary nailed a nice 23" red on the first cast and that was that. Clay, who brought his poling skiff, reported 9 redfish caught and seeing a load of carp (!) in the bay. Many of us also go introduced to the GEICO

mascot's bigger, meaner cousin. I personally counted four alligators, one of which decided he liked my fishing spot as much as I did. Though at the time I thought he'd look great as a new pair of size 13 cowboy boots, I was only armed with a Sage 8wt and he had all those teeth. Discretion truly is the better part of valor so I moved on. A big thanks to Puck for helping me lead the outing and thanks to everyone for making it a great day. We were especially pleased to see some of our newer members joining us. If you haven't been on an outing, saltwater and/or fresh, please come on out. It's a great way to learn new techniques and make new friends. *MFQ aka Wormdrowner*



Windknots

The Texas FlyFishers Mini Expo – Saturday, August 22nd, 2015

The club's Annual Mini Expo was held on Saturday August 22, 2015 at the Terrance United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. The Expo featured exhibitions from rod builders, George Sutherland, Joe Nicklo and Frank Schlicht, with his collection of hand crafted bamboo fly rods. Also on hand were club members Greg Corbett, Jerry Brown, Barry Sandler, Don “Puck” Puckett and Mike Seery demonstrating the fine art of fly tying.

Outside, Capt. Steve Soule and Mark Marmon also provided casting instruction throughout the day while inside, in the air conditioning, guest speakers members provided destination presentations, based on their own experiences and knowledge. The presentations were, Mark Marmon - Urban Fly Fishing; local saltwater expert Joe Deforke - “Fly Fishing Galveston Bay” and “Beginning Fly Fishing”, Dave Steffek & Martin Weir - “Fly Fishing the Guadalupe River” and, Martin



also informed us on fly fishing opportunities in Missouri, Hill Country Guide Kevin Hutchinson – “Fly Fishing the Texas Hill Country”, and, Capt. Steve Soule with “Shallow Water Saltwater Fly Fishing”

Last, but certainly not least, a big thank you goes out to the exhibitors including Russell Husted, President of the Texas Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Dave Steffek and Reel Recovery, guide and author Kevin Hutchison - Hill Country Fly Fishers, Terri Coteau with Advanced Embroidery & Promotions and, Rob Gonzales and Edward Ramirez with Tenkara USA.

From the first cup of early morning coffee & donuts to lunch, door prizes and the socializing between anglers, all present throughout the day seemed to have a fine time at this year's Mini Expo. Plans have already begun to make the 2016 Texas FlyFishers Mini Expo bigger and even better. We hope to see you there next August.



Windknots

Interesting Fishing Facts:

Flies used at the recent Port O'Connor One Fly or, *what flies work well!* By Scott Fossum

This collage contains some of the flies used at the recent POC One Fly event. Everyone had confidence that these flies would work and win the event, so you should use this as a guide of what flies to use on the Texas gulf coast. POC fish may have a different view of what a good meal consists of, but this selection looks tasty. *Scott*





Fly Of The Month:

The Deadhead Minnow

By Casey Smartt

A few years ago, I began experimenting with techniques to create a large cigar-shaped baitfish pattern made from craft fur. The goal was to tie a round-bodied pattern that was neutrally buoyant... something like a fly-version of a Corky lure. I could clearly visualize this fly in my mind, but had no idea how to make it.

After going through many evolutions in design and materials, I eventually learned to build the fly by dubbing a thick fuzzy craft fur body and then smoothing a fabric paint skin over the head. The fabric paint skin was a key feature. It made head of the fly hold its hot dog shape and it provided a solid surface for gluing on eyes. The skin also allowed the fly to shed water easily making it light and accurate to cast. I called the finished fly the "Deadhead" and it has become one of my favorite flies for both fresh and saltwater.

The Deadhead is a great fly for tricking trout, especially when they are feeding around structure or staking out potholes. Under these conditions, the Deadhead should be paired with an intermediate line and a leader with a long fluorocarbon tippet. With this rig, the Deadhead can be virtually dead-drifted or fished with slow twitches and tugs that absolutely bring the fly to life. It is a great combination. For deeper water, like channel edges and drops, I couple the fly with a fast sinking line. Throwing this fly along on a fast sinking line along current swallowing edges during an outgoing tide is deadly.

The Deadhead Minnow is also highly effective on striped bass and smallmouth bass when fished deep over structure, rock piles and gravel flats with sinking lines, or just under the surface behind a floating line. Regardless of depth or presentation style, a loop knot is always used to connect the fly to the leader, and is an important component in creating lifelike action.

I have tied this fly in many different color combinations, but my favorites are solid chartreuse with pearl flash and pearl glitter paint, and grey/white with silver flash and silver glitter paint. Another option for the skin is silicone. Silicone is not quite as durable as fabric paint, but it has a ghostly translucence and fleshy texture that fish like.

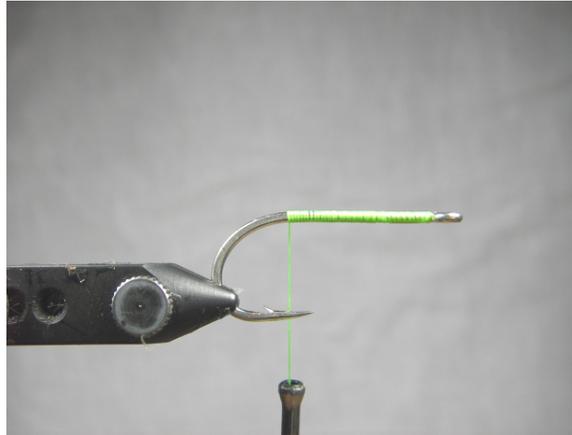
I have received many e-mails and phone calls from folks wanting to learn to tie this fly. The methods used to tie the Deadhead are not complicated, but they are unconventional and there is a learning curve involved in tying it. My best advice for tying this fly is to take your time when forming the dubbing loop and then go as light as possible with the fabric paint skin. Don't get discouraged if the fly doesn't look right as you are tying it because it usually will come together in the end. Stick with it. It's a great pattern. Here are the materials and tying steps:

Materials:

- Hook:** 1/0 to #2 short shank wide gape hook like- Mustad C70SD, Mustad Tarpon Hook, Tiemco 800S, or Gamakatsu Finesse
- Thread:** Danville's 210 denier flat waxed nylon or clear nylon mono
- Eyes:** Silver 1/4" 3D stick-on (flat adhesive eyes on silicone versions)
- Tail:** Rainy's or Hairline Dubbin's extra select craft fur
- Tail Flash:** 8-10 strands Krystal Flash or Polar Flash
- Body:** Rainy's craft fur or Hairline Dubbin's extra select craft fur
- Body:** Flash: Hairline Dubbing's Ice Dub (optional)
- Skin:** Tulip Glitter dimensional fabric paint or GE Silicone
- Banding/shading** (if desired): Prismacolor or Sharpie permanent markers

Windknots

Fly Of The Month: *Continued*



Step 1: Secure the thread to the hook shank and wrap back to the base of the bend of the hook, covering the hook shank with a layer of thread.



Step 2: Tie in a slender tapered clump of craft fur on top of the hook shank, overlay 8-10 strands of equal-length Krystal Flash, and tie in one more slender tapered clump of craft fur on top of the Krystal Flash.

Windknots

Fly Of The Month: *Continued*



Step 3: Make a dubbing loop 5 inches long by looping the tying thread around your finger and back up to the hook shank. Wrap thread from the bobbin around the base of the loop to secure it and then wrap the tying thread on up to the eye of the hook. Place a dubbing twister/spinner (weighted wire hook) through the end of the loop you have made and let it hang at the rear of the hook.



Step 4: Cut a full, even, combed bunch of craft fur and lay it out flat on the tying table with the butt ends of the craft fur aligned. On top of the craft fur, spread out a small pinch of Ice Dub shredded flash material.

Windknots

Fly Of The Month: *Continued*



Step 5: Carefully pinch the craft fur/Ice dub mixture and insert it between the two strands of the dubbing loop (this takes practice). Gently spread the mixture over the length of the dubbing loop, taking care to keep the ends aligned.



Step 6: Pull down on the dubbing spinner and twist the loop until you feel it begin to shorten slightly. Don't over-twist the loop or you will break the thread. The materials will tangle around the loop as you twist it, so keep tension on the loop and pick them out with a small piece of Velcro hook pad.

Windknots

Fly Of The Month: *Continued*



Step 7: With the dubbing twister still hooked in the loop, wrap the loop slowly to the eye of the hook. Tie off the end of the loop with the tying thread just behind the eye of the hook and snip off the tag end. Pick the body out with Velcro hook material. The body should be full and fuzzy.



Step 8: Gently comb back the body fibers until they are smooth. The body should have a full round shape that tapers toward the tail.

Fly Of The Month: *Continued*



Step 9: Run a small bead of Tulip Glitter fabric paint around the nose of the fly.



Step 10: Gently brush the glue rearward using a toothpick or small brush. The glue should not extend past the bend of the hook. Don't mash the glue into the head, just create a thin skin over the head.

Windknots

Fly Of The Month: *Continued*



Step 11: Place a large dollop of Tulip Glitter fabric paint on the back of a 3D eye and gently press the eye into the fly. The eye should nest in the paint to ensure a good glue bond. The fly will dry to the touch in an hour or two, but it is important to let it dry for 36 hours before soaking it.



Windknots

Fly Of The Month: *Continued*

You can also use silicone instead of fabric paint for the skin over the head. Shown here is a Silicone Deadhead with flat stick-on eyes below the skin. Silicone versions are neutrally buoyant and have a soft rubbery texture. This fly is tied on a wicked 2/0 Gamakatsu Finesse hook and has tagged many striped bass.



Thanks to Casey Smartt for supplying us with the Fly Of The Month pattern. Casey is a regular tyer at the Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival. You can see some more of Casey's patterns, some great tips on tying as well as some exceptional wildlife photography on his website at caseysmartt.com

Until Next Month, Tight Loops!



The Texas FlyFishers Executive Committee

Marcos Enriquez
President

John Purcell
Vice President / Programs

Raymond Lindeen
Treasurer

Jim Richards
Secretary / Programs

Bob Brill
Membership

Charles Osborn
Webmaster

Mike Frankoff
Conservation Chair

Frank Schlicht
Education Chair

Mike Graham
Communications Chair

Don Puckett
Freshwater Outings Chair

Mike Quigley
Saltwater Outings Chair

Chris Sumers
Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

Skip and Mary Kay Donovan
Auction Chairs

Alex Blacque
Door Prizes

Dave Steffek
Reel Recovery

For more information, go to the club's website at www.texasflyfishers.org

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. Please pro-rate your payment for the number of months between now and the end of June, inclusive, if you are joining for the first time. Our monthly meetings are at the Harris County District 3 Bayland Park Community Center, located at 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, Texas 77074, 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 571114
HOUSTON, TX 77257-1134