

# Windknots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 37, Issue 6, June 2018

## *It Doesn't Happen By Itself*

It's June and there are three things we can count on, 1) its going to get hot, 2) the fishing's going to pick up and, 3) it's time for the Texas FlyFishers to elect their directors.

The positions at stake are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any member in good standing can have their name placed in nominated for one of these positions. Nominations must be submitted to the Election Committee prior to the meeting. The floor is open to all nominations and motions and the actual vote is an open ballot, tallied by a show of hands or by voice acclamation. To be elected, all you need is to receive a simple majority of the votes. The only qualification to vote is that your name must be on the current membership roster and, your dues are current.

The new slate of officers will manage the affairs of Texas FlyFishers for the next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. If you have any questions concerning nominations or the election in general, please contact any of the current club officers. Their names are listed on the last page of the *Windknots*. - *Continued*

### **June Monthly Meeting**

The scheduled speakers for the June 26, 2018 are Baron Boyette and Dudley Harris giving us the low down on fishing for "Winter Time Redfishing in Louisiana".

Casting and fly tying begin at 6:00 pm and the meeting will kick off around 7:00 pm.

Bayland Park, 6400  
Bissonnet St., Houston, TX  
77074

### ***Also, in this issue...***

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## ***It Doesn't Just Happen - Continued***

Once the officers have been elected, please keep in mind that these four officers cannot do it all alone. We have need of volunteers to head and man the club's committees. If you are interested in stepping up as a committee chair person, a committee member, or an ad hoc advisor, please step forward and inform any of the officers. Your assistance is always greatly appreciated and, in the process, you will have the opportunity to learn much about our club and, the sport of fly fishing. *Tight loops!*

## ***Your Dues are Due in June!***

June 30<sup>th</sup> is the date your annual membership in the Texas Fly Fishers expires. The Texas FlyFishers offer three different yearly membership categories, Individual Membership at \$24.00 per year, a Family Membership for \$32.00 per year and, a Student Membership for \$16.00 per year.

To renew your membership, you can pay in person at the monthly meeting, by sending a check via snail mail or, electronically via pay pal on the club's website at <https://texasflyfishers.org>. There is a membership application / renewal for at the bottom of the last page of each *Windknots*.





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## Here's What's Coming Up!

### Monthly Meeting:

**Tuesday, June 26, 2018:** This month, the Texas FlyFishers will have two speakers Baron Boyette and Dudley Harris, from Gordy and Sons. Additionally, they run a serious bull red fish operation in Louisiana in the winter months. The topic of their presentation is "Fly Fishing for Bull Red Fish in Louisiana in the Winter Months". There should be a lot of good information regarding this fishery as well as tips and tactics that should apply to fishing for redfish west of the Sabine, as well. .

Also, if you are interested in improving your casting technique, beginning at 6:00 pm, Andy Payne, along with some of the Club's other casting instructors, will be on hand to help you out. Andy requests that you bring your rod along.

So, if you are interested in learning more about the fly fishing world and you are just interested in socializing with a friendly group of fly fishing men and women come to the June 26<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. We would be glad to have you and look forward to seeing you at the meeting. There is no charge for admission and, visitors are as always welcome.

The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074. Set up, social hour and fly tying starts at 6:00 pm and the meeting kicks off about 7:00 pm.

### Education:

The time has come to start planning to attend the Texas FlyFisher's Annual Summer Mini Expo. If you're not familiar with this event, the Mini Expo is when our membership has a chance to showcase their talents, skills and experiences to the public stage. This one day event features casting instruction, tying demonstrations and fly fishing locations and techniques *Plus*, admission is free. Closing out this year's event, we will hold the drawing for the Jackson Mayfly fishing kayak so, be sure and get your ticket so you don't miss out on this great opportunity.

This year's event is set for Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 2018 at the Terrace Unity Methodist Church, 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055.

*Joe Burton, TFF Education Director*

### Reel Recovery:



If you know someone or, have a relative living with cancer, please tell them about the Reel Recovery retreats available to them at no cost. They can apply by going to [reelrecovery.org](http://reelrecovery.org), or, contact Dave Steffek at (713) 202-0101 for answers to any questions they may have about the retreats."

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*Here's What's Coming Up! - Continued*

## **Andy's Casting Notes:**

### **Sharing Wisdom from a Master**

Andy Payne, CCI

For years Al Crise coordinated a casting study group from the Ft. Worth area to further knowledge of fly casting education around the IFFF. Gary Davison and Jim Bass have carried on Ol' Al's Group after his death. Gordy Hill monitors the flow of information and occasionally adds bits of his vast fly fishing knowledge to the effort. One example, sent by Gordy in relation to a discussion of teaching mending, is reproduced below with his permission. Gordy is a true pioneer of salt water fly fishing and an iconic figure in the lore of Fly Fishers International casting education.

These words seemed very relevant for our many salt water fly fishers in Houston and across the state.

"Many years ago, when fly casting and fishing first became of interest to salt water anglers, the term, "MEND" meant something different. In some salty circles, it still does.

The salty guys used the term, MEND, to mean the taking in of line slack by line hand stripping immediately after making the presentation. Reason for teaching this was the fact that many salt water fish, especially permit on the flats, would take the fly and (to use an expression by Del Brown), "eject it in a heartbeat".

Del was one of the best permit fly fishers ever minted. He pointed out that most permit are lost before the fly angler even knew the fish had picked up the fly.

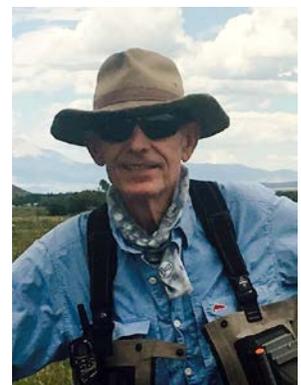
The guides knew it because they could often see the take from the high vantage point of the push pole platform.

We now teach would be permit fly fishers to make their presentations so that the loop unrolls with the line and long leader being as straight as possible.

One way of teaching this is to have the angler make the presentation and make the first strip just before the fly lands.

A method I sometimes use, is to present the fly well in front of an approaching permit, allow it to sink to the bottom and then take in all the slack. I place the rod tip down on the sand flat. As the fish approaches, I make a long VERY SLOW retrieve strip to make the crab fly "crawl" to mimic the crawl of a real crab. If the permit picks it up the system is already tight and the angler raises his rod tip as the permit hooks himself. If the angler strikes, the fish may "explode" and the force may result in a popped tippet.

Gordy"





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***Here's What's Coming Up! - Continued***

**Andy's Casting Notes - Continued**

Keep in mind that, before the monthly meeting, beginning around 6:00 pm, the Club's other casting instructors, I will be on hand to help you out with your casting stroke until the meeting begins. Please bring your rod along. *Andy Payne*

**Mark Your Calendars:**

The following is a list of activities currently scheduled by the Club for the first half of 2018. Please refer to the Club's website for more detailed information, [texasflyfishers.org](http://texasflyfishers.org)

**Club Activities Calendar for June through October, 2018**

**June:**

**Freshwater Outing** - South Llano Float Trip, Friday, June 22 thru Sunday, June 24, 2018, Junction, Texas. Outing Leader: Don "Puck" Puckett; E-mail: [doncpuckett\(at\) gee male \(dot\) com](mailto:doncpuckett@geemale.com) Check the Club's website for additional information.

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Speakers: Baron Boyette and Dudley Harris, "Fly Fishing for Bull Red Fish in Louisiana in the Winter Months". *Remember*, this month is the annual Election of Officers. If you are interested in running for one of the four positions, please contact one of the Club's officers. The monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

**July:**

**Saltwater Outing** – Currently, there is no saltwater outing scheduled for this July. If you have a location and, would like to lead the outing, contact Don "Puck" Puckett; E-mail: [doncpuckett\(at\) gee male \(dot\) com](mailto:doncpuckett@geemale.com). Check the Club's website for additional information.

**Freshwater Outing** - Currently, there is no freshwater outing scheduled for this July. If you have a location and, would like to lead the outing, contact Don "Puck" Puckett; E-mail: [doncpuckett\(at\) gee male \(dot\) com](mailto:doncpuckett@geemale.com). Check the Club's website for additional information.

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Speaker: *TBA* The monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

**August:**

**Saltwater Outing** – Currently, there is no saltwater outing scheduled for this August. If you have a location and, would like to lead the outing, contact Don "Puck" Puckett; E-mail: [doncpuckett\(at\) gee male \(dot\) com](mailto:doncpuckett@geemale.com). Check the Club's website for additional information.

**Freshwater Outing** - Currently, there is no freshwater outing scheduled for this August. If you have a location and, would like to lead the outing, contact Don "Puck" Puckett; E-mail: [doncpuckett\(at\) gee male \(dot\) com](mailto:doncpuckett@geemale.com). Check the Club's website for additional information.



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## ***Calendar - Continued***

**The Annual Summer Mini Expo** – The August Monthly Meeting is the Annual Summer Mini Expo and, it will take place on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at the Terrace Unity Methodist Church, 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055. Check the Club’s website for additional information.

### **September:**

**Saltwater Outing – Annual PINS Beach Trip**, Friday, September 14 thru Sunday, September 16, 2018. Outing Leader: Don “Puck” Puckett; E-mail: doncpuckett(at) gee male (dot) com Check the Club’s website for additional information

**Freshwater Outing** - Currently, there is no freshwater outing scheduled for this September. If you have a location and, would like to lead the outing, contact Don “Puck” Puckett; E-mail: doncpuckett(at) gee male (dot) com. Check the Club’s website for additional information.

### **October:**

**Saltwater Outing – Return to Fence Lake**, Dates TBD; We are currently working on plans for a 2 (two) day outing back to Fence Lake. Outing Leader: Chris Sumers; E-mail: csumers(at)comcast(dot)net. Details will be posted as dates and logistics are confirmed. Check the Club’s website for additional information

*Note: Dates and times are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the website for the most current information.*

### **Outings:**

#### **Freshwater Outing:**

The South Llano River Float Trip is a multi-day outing scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Junction, Texas. Everyone should plan to meet up on Friday afternoon around 4:00 pm. Keep in mind that driving time from Houston to Junction is about 5 hours, all depending on your point of departure and, how many “pit stops” you make.

Day 1 is schedule for traveling, with everyone meeting up at the South Llano River RV Park, around 4:00 pm. We’ll kayak this area getting our casting skills honed, and practicing with various flies. Hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill for dinner at our camp.

Day 2’s float plan has a couple of options, depending on the condition of the river, with everyone fishing all day and meeting back up at the campground for fishing stories and, pizza. . :

Sunday has the group fishing closer to the camp ground so we can maximize our water time before we all have to head back to the city, sometime around noon.

Fly selection includes Yellow spider, size 6-12, Miss Prissy, or similar small popper, PGPP, size 8-12, S1B, size 6-10, Hare-E, size 10, Squirrely, size 12, Dark Woolly bugger size 6-12. I’m sure the list will grow when a few folks read this and make their own recommendations.

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## ***Outings – Continued:***

Cabins A, B, C, D, and E are reserved for Texas FlyFishers for this adventure. Outside you'll find a BBQ grill and picnic table. Linens and cooking utensils are not provided. Final cost for lodging will be split between participants, expected to be less than \$50/person. Check with the outing leader for availability, additional details and, cost.

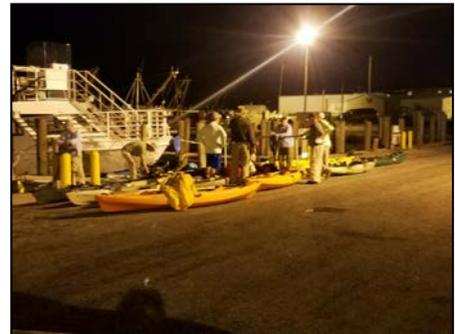
You can sign up for this outing via Evite or, on the sign-up sheet distributed at the monthly meeting or, e-mail the trip leader, Don "Puck" Puckett.

The outing leader is Don "Puck" Puckett; Cell phone number: 2ate1 (dash) 8six5(minus)thirty-two 16; e-mail: doncpuckett(at)gee-male (dot)com Visit the club's website and the South Llano River Float Trip 2018 thread for detailed information on this outing.

## **Outings Report:**

### **Fence Lake, Rockport/Fulton, Texas - June 9, 2018**

Those making the trip were Scott Fossum, Jonathan Hsu, Steve Tomlinson, Ken Kosut, Scott Breedlove, Tim Stokley, Denis Auger, Eduardo Davis and, Chris Sumers, outing leader. We all met up at the Skimmer, loaded out our kayaks and gear and, waited on the arrival of our captain...and, we waited. Unbeknownst to us, our captain had let the battery on his phone / alarm clock run down and, arrived just a little later than our previously agreed upon time of "between 6 and 6:30 am". Well, to make a long story short, after calling all known phone numbers and conducting a city wide search, our captain was finally located, awakened and reminded that he has someplace else he needed to be. A few minutes later, this big Chevy pick-up comes around the corner on two wheels, screeches to a stop and, our captain slips over to the boat, hoping no one noticed. A minute later, the engines roared and, off we took, across Aransas Bay, headed to the east.



As we approached the entrance to Fence Lake, we noticed that our tardiness had positioned us to unload our kayaks and gear right in the middle of the morning wade. As quickly (and, quietly) as we could, we unloaded / loaded our gear and headed into the Lake.

Personally, I headed back to my favorite spot in the back of the lake as the others took off into different directions. The plan was simple, cover as much of Fence Lake as we could, in search of redbfish, trout and the other targets of opportunity that occupy the waters. Unfortunately, since the big full moon a week prior, the tides had been way low, making fishing extremely difficult. Another obstacle we faced was the constant flow of airboats running around and through the lake. And, that's all I have to say about that.

As for the catching, here are the reports, in their words:

Scott F. – "5 reds from 13" to 20" on Tuscan bunny, Kwan and gold spoon fly"

Tim S. – "I hooked a nice lady fish but lost her about 20 seconds into the flight"

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## Outings Report - Continued:

Eduardo D. – “I always had good success there, but it was not meant to be on this one. Nevertheless, I enjoyed being out there very much”.

Jon H. – “Still working for my first red on the fly, but had a great time! It was really cool to see tailing fish for the first time. And I brought TOO much stuff”

As for me, I couldn't find the large trout (or, the small one) I released on last year's trip. However, as I was paddling back to the rally point, I managed to pull an “under slot” red out of a school of skittish, tailing mullet, no epic stalk, no “Rajeff-esque” casts, just a case of flip the fly in front of the fish, strip strike and enjoy a couple of minutes of getting the coils pulled out of my fly line.



Around 3:00 pm, we all met up at the mouth of Fence Lake to await the arrival of the Skimmer. In the mean-time, some of our cast of characters waded out into knee deep water and kept casting, with benefits.

After repeating the loading / unloading process, we all cleaned up and met up at the home of fellow FlyFishers, Phil and Pam Stranahan and were graciously entertained with a BBQ dinner and BS session. Among the topics of discussion, we all voted in favor of coming back in the fall for another try for the Fence Lake redbfish, when the weather is a little cooler and, the water is a little deeper.

*The story continues!*

Been fishing lately? How'd it go? Please share your results and experiences with the club, E-mail your report and photos to me at [csumers\(at\)Comcast\(dot\)com](mailto:csumers(at)Comcast(dot)com).

## Special Events:

The Contraband Fly Casters will host their annual Fly Fishing Expo, Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Isle of Capri Casino Hotel in Lake Charles, Louisiana. For additional information, e-mail [contrabandflycasters@gmail.com](mailto:contrabandflycasters@gmail.com).



**Contraband Fly Casters**  
**FLY FISHING EXPO**  
Friday, July 13; Noon – 4pm  
Saturday, July 14; 8am – 4pm

Fly Casting Instructions | Fly Tying | Lure Exhibits  
Auctions/Raffles | Equipment Display

**Free Fun for the whole family.**  
Also, visit with one of the top fly casters  
*Jay Clark.*

Proceeds go to support:  
Project Healing Waters | REEL RECOVERY Louisiana Reel Recovery

*CICP testing will be held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau on July 12*

**Fred Hannie**  
Realistic Fly Tying

**Pat Cohen**  
Fly Tying Workshops  
Registration and fee required

**Jeff Ferguson**  
Master Casting Instructor

**Isle of Capri**  
Sponsored by:  
Isle of Capri Casino Hotel  
100 Westlake Avenue  
Westlake, Louisiana 70669  
Special hotel rates:  
LAKE CHARLES 1-888-475-3847 Mention code CFC18

**Tom Nixon Chapter**  
Lake Charles, Louisiana  
337-540-1292 or 337-840-1439  
[contrabandflycastersinc@gmail.com](mailto:contrabandflycastersinc@gmail.com)

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## **Fly of the Month:**

### **Lefty's Craft Fur Shrimp**

Originated by Lefty Kreh

Tied by Chris Sumers



This simple pattern was developed by Lefty Kreh for bonefish but, it is also a productive pattern for most other saltwater coastal species along with largemouth bass and carp.

### **Materials:**

**Hook:** Mustad 3407 DT or, similar saltwater hook, size 6 to 2

**Thread:** Flat Waxed Nylon, or similar, Tan or Brown

**Tail:** Craft Fur, Tan

**Eyes:** Medium Bead Chain, Dumbbell Hourglass Lead Eyes or, Black Mono Eyes

**Body:** Craft Fur guard hairs, Tan or, EP Brush, Tan, ½ inch.

**Weed Guard:** Mason or, other stiff monofilament, 20- 30# - Optional

**Tail Accent:** Sharpie, Black, Brown or Red

**Head Cement or UV Resin**

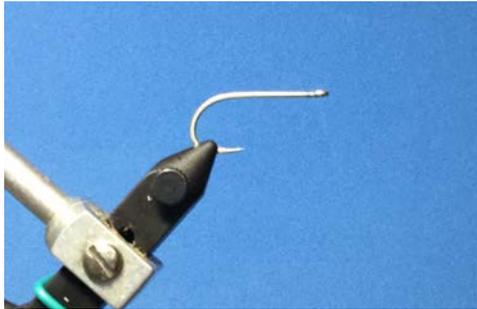
# Windknots

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## **Fly of the Month - Continued:**

### **Step 1:**

Secure your hook in the vise.



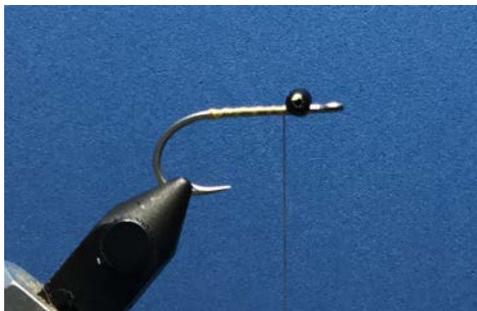
### **Step 2:**

Tie in thread about 1/8 inch behind hook eye, wind back to a point just behind the hook point and back forward to the tie in point. Run a thin bead of head cement or Super Glue down the back of the thread.



### **Step 3:**

Tie in a set of black bead chain, dumbbell or, mono eyes.



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## **Fly of the Month - Continued:**

### **Step 4:**

Cut a piece of craft fur and remove the guard hairs and save them off to the side for use a little later. Cut the tail about 1½ times the length of the shank of the hook. Tie in the craft fur directly behind the eyes and wind the thread back to a point just behind the hook point. Bring the thread back to the eyes and back to the hook point.



### **Step 5:**

Apply dubbing wax to the thread and apply the craft fur guard hairs to the thread. Take your dubbing spinner tool, create a dubbing loop and spin the thread into a tight brush. *Note: if you don't want to mess with spinning a dubbing brush, you can use a ½ inch, tan EP Dubbing Brush in its place.*



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## Fly of the Month - Continued:

### Step 6:

Palmer the dubbing brush forward to the eyes, then take one wrap in front of the bead chain eyes and tie the dubbing brush off. Clip the dubbing brush off, taking care not to cut the thread.



### Step 7:

Create a tapered head and whip finish. *Note: If you want to add a weed guard to your fly, you can tie it in at this point.* Cut your thread and add a couple of drops of head cement (or UV Resin). Let the head cement dry.



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**Fly of the Month - Continued:**

**Step 8:**

With a dubbing brush, bodkin or, stiff tooth brush, pick out the body to give it a “buggy” look



**Step 9:**

Take a black, brown or red Sharpie and bar the tail, giving it a segmented look and then, *Go Fishing!*



*Tight loops and tight lines!*



**The Texas FlyFishers Executive Committee:**

**Marcos Enriquez**  
President

**John Purcell**  
Vice President / Programs

**Bob Brill**  
Secretary / Membership

**Raymond Lindeen**  
Treasurer

**Jim Richards**  
Secretary / Programs

**Dave Lemke**  
Webmaster

**Mike Graham**  
Communications

*Open*  
Conservation Chair

**Joe Burton**  
Education Chair

**Andy Payne**  
Casting / FFI Director

**Don Puckett**  
Outings Chair / FFI Director

**Alex Blacque**  
Registration / Door Prizes

**Chris Sumers**  
Dr. Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

**Mary Kay & Skip Donovan**  
Auction Chairs

**Dave Steffek**  
Reel Recovery

For additional information, check out the Texas FlyFishers website at [www.texasflyfishers.org](http://www.texasflyfishers.org)

**Texas Flyfishers Membership Application**

**Please Check One:**    **New Application**                       **Renewal**

To join the 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 30<sup>th</sup> of each year and, renewals are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 held 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 pm.

Dues are for (check one):  Individual at \$24.00/year;  Family at \$32.00/year;  Student at \$16.00/year

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work / Cell Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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