

Wind Knots

A monthly publication of the Texas Flyfishers

Volume 23 / Issue 2 February 2004

Don't Forget!

Monthly Meeting

February 24th, 7:30 p.m.
(doors open at 7:00)

Chuck Naiser, salt water guide
from the Rockport area.

Holiday Inn, I-10 at Antoine

In this issue . . .

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- and more!

There's nothing as constant as change

Wind Knots has a new look this month. Greg Rhodes, who so ably designed and published your newsletter for the last several years, bowed to the pressures of a new job and a new family member and retired from service. In the short term, editor Corey Rich will do double duty as editor and publisher.

As mentioned at recent club meetings, we intend for our Web page on the Internet to be our primary means of distributing *Wind Knots*. It will be more timely and less expensive than printing and mailing the three hundred or so copies we have been mailing. This issue and the next will probably be the last ones mailed out. If you do not have Internet access, you will not be left out, though. We'll print a limited number of copies each month for those of you who can't receive your copies electronically. More on that on the next page.

We're also in the early stages of re-doing our Web site. Norbert Burch has done yeoman's service as webmaster – a position he volunteered to do temporarily about four years ago. (If you are a Web site designer or know one who would like to help, please call president Jerry Loring, [H] 713-464-8687, or Corey Rich, [H] 713-621-6071.)

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

We meet the last Tuesday of every month except December at the Holiday Inn on the Katy Freeway between Antoine and Silber. The formal meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., but the doors are open from 7:00 for greeting friends and telling fish stories.

- March 30, 2004. Bill Gammel, the only Federation of Fly Fishers-sanctioned master casting instructor in the Houston area, will talk about and demonstrate the "Essential Elements of Fly Casting."
- April 27, 2004. [To be announced.]
- May 25, 2004. Woody Voigt will give a presentation on tail-race trout fishing on western rivers.

President's Corner

by Jerry "Buggywhip" Loring, president, Texas Flyfishers



Bruce Heiberg created the current TFF outings scheme of developing a full list of proposed trips at the beginning of the year, with different leaders for each. The preliminary list of this year's outing destinations is posted in this issue of *Wind Knots* on page 4. Each trip needs a leader. Bruce's primary thought was that whoever volunteered would probably be very knowledgeable and familiar with that specific location. Hence, a highly qualified leader would make for a better outing. This indeed proved to be the case in many outings last year.

However, there are other reasons why someone would choose to lead an outing. Here are some of the reasons given last year: Number one was that the outing sounded like fun and would be interesting. Number two was to learn more about a particular location or type of fishing. Number three was to get to know more club members. Number four was to help defray some of the cost of a fishing trip. Number five was simply to have another reason to go fishing.

Anyone can be a leader of an outing. Scan the list and call Clarke Thornton for freshwater outings and Scott Fossum for saltwater outings. If you don't see a leader already mentioned for a particular trip, it's available. The date shown for the outing is recommended, but is not carved in stone. The date can be changed if you are sure it will improve the outing and we have adequate time to do so in advance. The only consideration we request is that no outing be scheduled that would conflict with the Sunfish Spectacular in May or the Redfish Rodeo in August.

The leader's responsibilities are simple. First, make yourself available to those planning to attend, so they can find out where and when to meet, eat, socialize, and fish. Second, submit an expense report to treasurer Rick Rawls to get reimbursed for food and necessary expenses. The recommended range is \$50 to \$100, depending on the number participating. Clarke and Scott can provide guidelines for just about any question concerning expenses and planning.

We want to create a schedule of successful, high-quality monthly outings. We believe this can be accomplished by developing, over time, a list of saltwater and freshwater destinations that have a high probability of success at a particular time of year. Naturally, there will always be wildcat trips to a private bass lake, or a river way out west that takes a day to get to, or that secret bay on the coast, where the outcome is not assured. The lure of the unknown can be as strong as a sure thing. Outings are an important adjunct to other TFF programs. We are, after all, a fly fishing club.

If you don't have Internet access . . .

Please send a letter or post card to Corey Rich, 1900 N. Memorial Way, Houston, TX 77007, if you do not have Internet access and need to have a copy of *Wind Knots* printed and mailed to you. Write legibly and make sure you give the address to which you want your newsletter sent.

Casting Classes

The latest round of casting classes taught by Troy Miller, our FFF Certified Casting Instructor, began on February 14 and runs four consecutive Saturdays. Beginners meet from 10:00 until noon, Intermediates from 1:00 until 3:00. The classes are held at the Lakes at Meyer Park. There may still be places left. If you're interested, e-mail Troy at Troy.Miller@bakeroiltools.com.

Norfolk River Outing Report (Part II)

Perspective from an old salt returning to his fresh water roots

by Gary "The Kid" Evans

[The adventure began in the last issue of Wind Knots. If you missed it, go back and start there. Ed.]

The fishing was exciting and rewarding. We fished at night when the water was up and down. When it was up, the big fish were really active. You could hear big fish jumping out of the water nearby, but you couldn't see anything. Sounded like someone throwing a bowling ball into the river. You could only stand there and say, "Wow"! The first night (actually, Wednesday morning), we were rigged and fishing by 3:30 a.m. It was dark and I was unfamiliar with the terrain, so I got tangled a lot at first. My eight-weight line was for salt water, so it did not perform very well in the cold. We stretched it in the dark a couple of times, but when I reeled onto the reel, it coiled again. Very frustrating.



Troy tying for the next day's adventure

Troy landed a couple nice ones and finally hooked a big one. In the dark, we could see the fish's eyes "glowing." He brought the fish closer and surprise, surprise, it was a big walleye. Troy released the fish, later to find out that the walleye are eating up many of the smaller trout. Arkansas Fish and Game recommends that these fish be removed from the river. At dawn, I switched to a four-weight and we continued to fish the rest of the day.

The next few nights, we fished the dam area with large wooly buggers and egg-sucking leeches and had some pretty exciting action. I could not stop some of the fish in the fast water on the four-weight. I fished 3X and then 1X tippet, but still was only able to land a couple of 18-inch browns. I broke off seven large fish in the dark over three nights. Some took it hard and broke the tippet on the take in fast water. For those that stayed on after the take, I put the rod down parallel to the water and "put the meat to the fish," but they just didn't want to stay in the quiet water – it was sayonara, followed by "snap" or "pow." There was no place to run. There was no way to follow the fish in the dark.

Fishing during the day was very technical, but it was rewarding and exciting. We nymphed with scuds and sow bugs when the water was down, and we had lots of places to fish and lots of fish to which we could sight-cast. I had some really good action high-sticking in a hole by the dam when the water was up, using a small San Juan worm. Still, I broke off some really nice fish using 5X fluorocarbon. I landed some nice fish by keeping them tight to the hole or following them downstream around the bend about 100 yards into quiet water. The worm became my "go-to" high water bait.

At McClellan's during the norther it was too windy high-sticking to see the take, and I didn't have any indicators, so I switched to wooly buggers, soft hackles (partridge and orange), and emergers (beadhead nymphs). The norther was blowing through and it was cold and miserable, but still fishable. I shivered while I fished, not really dressed for the change, but good enough in my Frogg Toggs top. I continued to break fish off. I tried to emulate the "lightening quick, with kid gloves" hook set while lifting the rod on the strike, but I am a saltwater guy – it's hard to change your "put the meat to 'em" ways.



Trout food – scuds and sowbugs

We found some very good fishing in Arkansas that is not too far away, technical enough to challenge one's skills, and with the chance to catch the fish of a lifetime on any given cast. Troy Miller caught the most fish. He got a watershed quad slam with a brown, brookie, and rainbow on the Norfolk River in the morning, and a cutthroat on the White River in the evening. Nick Lester caught the biggest trout, a 22-inch brown on a San Juan worm in high water. Troy took pictures of the scuds and sow bugs in the grass. The colors will help perfect the right shade of nymph in the future.



Gary shows what he came for

The very best part of the trip was the companionship. Fishing isn't just about catching. It's about sharing the time and creating memories. We shared enjoyable late nights with Troy tying flies for everyone for the next day. Expert or novice, it just didn't seem to matter. We each shared the excitement of the coming day and the companionship with one another. This adventure ranks high on my list. I have found some great companions.

Thank you for your efforts and professionalism, Troy.

OUTINGS SCHEDULE

Our outings schedule is a continuing work-in-progress. Here are the trips we have tentatively scheduled for the year. More may be added. Some may be dropped. There will probably be some rescheduling. Use the list for general planning purposes.



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 elsewhere in this issue. Fresh water trips are designated [F], salt water [S] in the listings below.

February 15. "Guadalupe One Fly" tournament, Guadalupe River, Sattler, Texas [F]. Trout. Float or wade.

March ?? White bass trip [F], maybe, if conditions are right. To be announced.

March ?? Nighthawk Bay, Corpus Christi, TX [S].

Clarke Thornton - fresh **April 10.** Lighthouse Lakes kayaking, Aransas Pass, TX [S]. Ralph Adams, leader (h 713-664-0491, w 713-767-8039, c 832-651-8166, ralph_adams@earthlink.net). Kayak rental available nearby.

April 17. Jerry Loring's secret lake in Bellville, Texas for bass and panfish [F]. Jerry Loring, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7).

May 9. "Sunfish Spectacular." Seven Lakes, Damon, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

May 22. St. Charles Bay kayaking, Rockport, TX [S]. Ralph Adams, leader (contact info above in April 10 listing). Trip will begin at Cavasso Creek. Boaters can launch at Goose Island State Park. Kayak rental available in Rockport.

June 5-6. Port O'Connor jetties, Port O'Connor, Texas [S]. Scott Fossum, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7). Leave POC docks Saturday afternoon, fish all night, return Sunday morning. Redfish, speckled trout, Spanish mackerel, jacks, etc. No boat required, but boats welcome to ferry participants to jetties. Camp Saturday night on Matagorda Peninsula.

June 12-13. Llano River float trip. Junction, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

July 10-11. Crystal Lake, Manvel, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

July 31. "Port O'Connor One Fly" tournament. Port O'Connor, Texas. Redfish, speckled trout, etc. [S]. Scott Fossum, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7). Rotating crystal trophy up for grabs. Most inches of fish caught on the first fly you tie on wins. Boat or kayak needed. Captains with space and fishermen needing rides should contact Scott.

August 14. "Redfish Rodeo." Rockport, Texas [S].

August 21. San Marcos River float trip with Kevin Hutchinson, San Marcos, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

September 11. Double Lake, Cold Spring, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

September 25-26. "Padre Island Surf Fest." Four-wheel down Padre Island and fish the surf [S]. Optional camping on beach.

October 10. Damon Live Oaks Lake, Damon, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

October ?? South Padre Island, Texas [S]. Rick Rawls, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7).

November 7. Guadalupe River, Sattler, Texas. Trout [F].

November ?? Shamrock Bay, Port Aransas, TX [S].



Scott Fossum - salt

2004 Texas Flyfishers Auction

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, March 20th. This is the club's major fund-raiser for the year and a whole lot of fun. It's your chance to find incredible bargains on tackle, flies, tying tools and materials, art, fishing togs, guided trips and much more. In addition to donations from our membership, local outfitters provide high-quality merchandise from their shops, and guides throughout the state donate trips. The auction is very important to the club. It provides over half of all our income each year, funding our meetings, outings, speakers, and instructional classes.

The place: Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer next to Lamar High School, just west of Kirby and east of Buffalo Speedway. Silent auction begins at 10:00. An outstanding spaghetti lunch is served at 11:45. Live auction begins at 12:00 and should last until about 1:15. After that we close the silent auctions. We'll try to get everyone out by 2:00.

Admission to the auction is free. The lunch, served by the church staff, costs five bucks, all of which goes to the church.

You can be a part of the auction in three ways. First, volunteer to help before or during the auction, getting things set up and taken down, marking items, and so forth. Call auction chairman Rick Rawls or Jerry Loring to sign up. Their coordinates are on the Executive Committee roster on page 7.

Second, clean out those closets, rod lockers, and fly boxes, donating lightly used equipment and fishing-related goods to the auction. Drop off your donations at the February club meeting or at I Fly, The Anglers Edge, 5000 Westheimer, Suite 620, Orvis Houston, 5848 Westheimer, or either of the Cut Rate Fishing Tackle locations, 8933 Katy Freeway or 12800 Gulf Freeway.

Finally, and most important, come to the auction, see all your fishing friends, bid on silent and live auction items, participate in the raffles and take part in the now-famous card drawing for outstanding prizes. This is a family-style event, so bring the young flyfishers, too. We'll see you there on March 20th.



Rick Rawls - auction chair

TYING TIP

[Editor's note: This tip, written by Mitch Whitney, first appeared in the August, 1990 issue of Wind Knots.]

Need a muddler minnow or other streamer with a deer hair head to sink rapidly? Try attaching a little larger bunch of deer hair than normal for the collar and then, instead of pulling the butts back and starting another bunch, continue to wrap the thread forward through the butts to just behind the eye of the hook. Then tie off the thread and whip finish. You can now trim the butts to a normal bullet-shaped head. The fly will sink more easily because there is a lot less hair in the head than normal – a one-application muddler head.

ABOUT YOUR WIND KNOTS

Wind Knots is your monthly newsletter, and it needs your help. Otherwise we'll run out of things to print. Email your articles, photos, artwork, graphics, fishing news, tall tales, lies, and letters to the editor to corey.rich@aya.yale.edu or fax to (713) 864-7488.

If you have digital photos, please send them in .JPG format. If you have paper photos, mail them to Corey Rich, 1900 N. Memorial Way, Houston, TX 77007. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return.

The preferred form for text – stories, letters, and so forth – is in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word. Please turn off "smart quotes" or "curly quotes." 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 will be appreciated.

Wind Knots is posted on the club's Web site as soon as it becomes available. Check www.texasflyfishers.org regularly for the latest newsletter and other news of interest.

New Monthly Column – Five Favorite Flies

We're starting a new column this month that should be fun and useful. In each issue, we'll feature the five favorite flies of one or more TFF members. Everyone is encouraged to participate – more on that below.

List the descriptions of five favorite flies for a particular type of fishing in a particular location and, if appropriate, for a particular season. I'll start, and you can use this as a format for your own lists. For each pattern, give the name, hook size or size range, and color if it is not specific to the pattern.

The five favorite flies of the husband of one of Texas's best lady flyfishers (see below) for redfish on the middle and south coasts of Texas, where there may also be speckled trout, black drum, and sheepshead:

1. **Borski slider**, sizes 4 and 6. Natural deer hair body with blonde or tan craft fur tail striped with a black permanent marker. Mono weed guard.
2. **Wobbler spoon fly**, size 1. Gold holographic flat mylar tubing with red thread. Mono weed guard.
3. **Black Clouser**, size 4, sparsely tied. Some with, some without black Krystal Flash in wing.
4. **Kwan fly**, size 4. Blonde craft fur tail striped with black permanent marker, bright orange glo-bug yarn egg sack, one bright blue strand of yarn, then alternating light and dark tan strands of yarn to make the body.
5. **Bendback deceiver**, size 2 (long shank hook). Black thread, silver mylar tubing body, white wing with a few strands of black, then topped with peacock herl or black Krystal Flash. Paint or glue prominent eyes on the head, then epoxy.



That's all there is to it. Please send your submissions to corey.rich@aya.yale.edu or Corey Rich, 1900 N. Memorial Way, Houston, TX 77007. If you'd like to include a picture, so much the better.

TIRA OVERSTREET SETS NEW PERSONAL BEST

Bundled up to brave the sub-sixty-degree weather and ten-mile-an-hour winds, Tira Overstreet set a new personal best on January 10, 2004, catching 20 redfish and three black drum near Port O'Connor. All fish were taken on either a black size-four Clouser or a black size-four curly-tailed fly.

"I put her in the good spot. Then she just kept blocking any of the fish from reaching me," said her husband, Corey Rich.

"That's a crock," said Tira Jane. "I found the fish and called him over. He couldn't see them when he was standing in the middle of them, and then he couldn't catch them when he did see them."

Corey managed to take three reds and two black drum that day. The following day Tira caught seven more reds, Corey, four reds and a black drum. It was a pretty good weekend of fishing.



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WIND KNOTS CLASSIFIED

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 email to corey.rich@aya.yale.edu or regular mail to Corey Rich, 1900 N. Memorial Way, Houston, TX 77007. You may include a photograph of items to be sold if you like.

FOR SALE

1. Brand new G. Loomis 2-piece, 9x9 GLX. This rod is fresh from the factory and has never been cast. \$415.
2. Three year old Scott 3-piece, 9X8 STS. This rod is in excellent condition. It has been my back-up rod since I bought it. \$325. Geoffrey Griffith, mobile 713-858-3716, home 713-871-8525, geoff.griffith@prodigy.net

FOR SALE



Tunnel hull flats skiff. J-Craft, semi-custom hull made in Rockport, TX, with 2002 Yamaha 90 h.p., stainless prop; 2003 aluminum McClain trailer; 192 and 94 quart cooler seats with cushions; fly rod rack; Lowrance X51 digital depth finder; anchor and lines. Always garaged. \$12,995. Corey Rich, days 713-861-1928, evenings 713-621-6071.

Fly rod – St. Croix Legend Ultra 4-piece 6-wt. with fighting butt. Like new, used only four times. Includes rod tube with internal partitions. \$225. Corey Rich.



Neoprene waders – Hodgman's men's size large, lightly used. \$45. Corey Rich.



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. 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 Holiday Inn on the Katy Freeway between Antoine and Silber on the last Tuesday of every month (except December), beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Dues enclosed are (check one): Individual, \$24 a year Family, \$32 a year Student, \$16 a year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Email: _____

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