



Single Haul

The Newsletter of The Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

February 2011

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Editor's Eddy

Being midwinter, thoughts turn to saltwater.....

An article published in the 'Bulletin', a publication of the New York Zoological Society of 1936, records a piece of observational research on bonefish by a Ms. Gloria Hollister. Having taken the specimen of a newborn bonefish from the waters of New Nonesuch Island in Bermuda and observing it for ten days, she recorded the baby bonefish began life in an eel like form. It had no resemblance whatsoever to the adult we know. Over the next ten days the young fish decreased in length from two and a quarter inches to close to one inch after which it took on the miniature adult form. During this time the dorsal fin changed its position dramatically moving from a position near the tail to a prominent position in the centre of its body. Its colour changed from transparent to a dusky silver.

The adult bonefish grows to become a sort of cross between a carp and a grayling. His colour is silvery white shading to greenish blue on the back and the speed of his first run can

exceed 30 mph and strip line into your backing in seconds. Ed

Prior to the late 1930's those bonefish that were boated were done so accidentally by fly fisherman fishing other species and it was not until 1939 when a photograph appeared in a Miami newspaper recording, the first known North American bonefish *intentionally* taken on a fly.

For the next decade, bonefishing took a backseat to world war two. Bonnie Smith, wife of Captain Bill Smith, whose photograph had appeared in that Miami newspaper, took over his business during this time and became a competent guide in the Florida Keys together with the husband/wife team of Joe and Mary Brooks. It was Bonnie who first guided Jimmie Albright who later became one of the greatest pioneer bonefish guides.

Albright, who invented both the commonly used nail knot as well as the Albright Knot for joining lines of different diameters, guided the who's who of bonefishing celebrities, from US presidents (Hoover & Bush) to Hollywood celebs (Jimmy Stewart & Zane Grey) to sports

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legends (Ted Williams and Jack Nicklaus), before he died in 1998 at the age of 82.

From 1947 on for the next two decades, Joe Brooks led the way with his fly designs. Other pioneers followed, among them Stanley Babson, Baseball's Ted Williams, Lefty Kreh and Chico Fernandez. Then came a distinguished list of highly experienced guides and tyers. Names like Rick Ruoff, Tim Borski, Pete Perinchief, Jack Gartside, Bob Clouser, Bob Nauheim (Crazy Charlie) and their Bahamian counterparts Charlie Smith and Joe Cleare.

Bonefish don't jump when hooked. Being inhabitants of extremely shallow salt flats there is nowhere for them to go but forward and do they ever, jetting through the water at breakneck speeds: a trout is said to run at around 5 mph, a salmon at 12 but 'Albula Vulpes' will take your fly then accelerate to 30 mph on its first run. To experience this thrill is the dream and preference of a special cadre of fly fishermen. Historically bonefishing has favoured the wealthy, however interest has become so widespread that the cost of a weeks bonefishing is now within reach of many more fly fishermen.

Permission granted from Globe Pequot Press for using references from "Bonefish" by Dick Brown

Upcoming Shows

In February and March we have the Spring Fishing & Boat Show and the Toronto Sportsman Show respectively. These are opportunities to promote the club, encourage new members, inform the public of our conservation activities and encourage young people with flytying demonstrations. For each of these we require volunteers to man our club booth and offer flytying to the kids. If you are interested in helping at either event please contact either Bill Xmas (March event) or Pat Kelly (February event). Thanks. Ed

We have been asked to do the flytying classes again at the Toronto Sportsman's Show.

IWFFC



I will be asking for IWFFC HAFFT and WHFFC to participate again. Last year as an outstanding success, with 800 kids learning to tie a fly. Our volunteers averaged 6.5 hours of duty. I would hope we can get more people so the work load can be reduced. We want people to enjoy some time at the show. It was a lot of fun and I know many people got our "Message". As before, free entry and a food voucher each day for our people.

I will be changing my e-mail address on the 15, so hold off replies until then so we can fit the schedule to YOUR needs!, thanks to all .

Bill Xmas
IWFFC and TU junky.



Club Book Library

During winter there is perhaps more of an opportunity for reading than the rest of the year so last February in SH, I printed the first page of books in our library, with the remaining pages to follow. So below is page 2.

Ed

Title	Author	Code
Fumbling With a Fly Rod	Ian Colin James	F115B
Furskin Processing	Harry Kaplan	F143B
Getting Started in Fly Fishing	Tom Fuller	G106B
Glass Bottom Boat	David Gilmour	G101B
Glass Bottom Boat	David Gilmour	G102B
Gray's Sporting Journal Oct 1996	Magazine	G199M
Great Rivers Great Hatches	Charles Meck	G104B
Guide to Aquatic Trout Food	Dave Whitlock	G105B
Guide to Become Muskie Master	Mike Bolton	G100B
Handbook of Fly Tying	Peter Gathercole	H100B
How to Choose Fly Tying Thread	Paul Marriner	H103B
Illustrated Dictionary of Trout Flies	John Roberts	I101B
Incredible Fishing Stories	Shaun Morey	I102B
Inshore Fly Fishing	Lou Tabory	I100B
Larger Trout	Charles Brooks	L103B
Lake Fly Fishing Strategies	Bob Sheedy	L105B
Largemouth Bass	Milt Rosko	L100B
Lee Wulf on Flies	Lee Wulf	L104B
Lure Fishing	A.C. Becker Jr.	L102B
Making Your Own Fishing Rods	Mel Marshall	M101B
Master's Guide To Building Bamboo Fly Rod	Everett Garrison	M103B
Misadventures of A Fly Fisherman	Jank Hemingway	M100B
Modern Fly Fishing	Larry Solomon	M104B
Modern Trout Flies	Poul Jorgensen	M102B
Native Trout Of North America	Robert Smith	N103B
New York State Atlas Topo	Delorme	N102B
North American Trout Fishing	John Merwin	N104B
On the Run	David DiBenedetto	O104B
Outdoor Life Fishing Adventures	Grosset and Dunlap	F107B
Outside Story	Robert Scammell	O100B
Patterns of the Masters 1989	David Nelson	P105B
Patterns of the Masters 1991	David Nelson	P199B
Penguin Book of Fishing	Ted Lamb	P100B
Pennsylvania Trout Streams	Charles Meck	P104B
Philosophical Fisherman	Harold Blaisdell	P101B
Positive Fishing	Robert Deindorfer	P102B
Practical Fly Fisherman	A.J. McClane	P103B
Pursuit of Stillwater Trout	Brian Clarke	P104B
Rapala Fisherman Catalog	Normark	R101B
Rapala Fishing Guide	Rapala	R102B
Reasonable Art of Fly Fishing	Terry Mort	R105B
Renewing Nature's Wealth	Richard Lambert	R100B
Rising Trout	Charles Fox	R104B
River Journal Salmon River	Rick Kustich	S109B
Seasonal Movement Patterns Brown Trout Credit River	Micheal Zimmer	S114B
Saltwater Flies	Kenneth Bay	S101B
Saltwater Fly Tying	Frank Wentink	S111B
Salmon	Timothy Frew	S102B
Sea Run	Les Johnson	S103B
Shadow of the Salmon	C Taylor	S112B
Sportsman Digest of Fishing	Hal Sharp	F108B
Sportsman's World	Jack Samson	S100B
Standing in a River Waving a Stick	John Gierach	S113B
Stoneflies	Carl Richards	S107B
Stoneflies For the Angler	Eric Leiser	S106B
Stripers on The Fly		

Generous Donation.

A past member of the club, The Reverend Elwyn Hughes has very generously donated over 50 books to our library. When Bill Jeni is able to catalogue these, they will be available to all members. Many thanks Elwyn. **Ed**

Eleuthera for Bonefish... and more

Brian Green

Our first view of Eleuthera is out of the port-side window of a Bahama's Air Dash-8 on the 20 minute flight over from Nassau. We see a long sliver of land bordered by white sand, surrounded by a layer of turquoise blue (the bonefish flats!), and then the deep blue of the ocean. We are met at the little Governor's Harbour Airport by Mike and Kerry Ann Scanlan, our hosts for a week of sightseeing, relaxing, soaking up island culture... and bonefishing.

Valerie and I had booked a week with the Scanlans, whose winter "job" is hosting fly fishers, two at a time, at a beach-front house in Eleuthera. They function as tour guides, gourmet cooks, chauffeurs, and arrangers... and Mike shares his encyclopedic knowledge of Eleuthera bonefish.

Our first day is spent walking the flats and learning to spot bones. As anyone who has fished them knows, there is an art to seeing their superbly camouflaged bodies against the light coloured sand and turtle grass patches of their habitat. Never mind that they are in only two feet of water or less, it takes us nearly all day to begin to see them, even when Mike points them out to us! Bonefish cruise the flats (mostly around high tide), sniffing out crabs and shrimp on the bottom, leaving telltale dark circles, 'muds', in the sand where they have poked their snouts. Lots of these dark circles will indicate a feeding zone, and fresh ones (Mike points out the difference between fresh and old) suggest bonefish are nearby.

By day two we are adept enough to actually cast to cruising fish, and even get a couple of jarring hits, though we didn't hook a fish. The flies of choice are small, sparsely tied streamers, most with bead chain or dumbbell eyes tied Clouser style so the hook rides up, as they must be right on the bottom to resemble bone fish food. Pinks and light browns are

favoured colours, since these extremely wary fish would be spooked by anything that didn't look natural... and all flats creatures are well adapted to blending in with the sand bottom. When we do spot fish, we have to drop our flies somewhere in front of them, but that's a guessing game because as they cruise, they constantly change direction. The idea is to put the fly down as gently as possible six feet or so from a fish, let it sink to the bottom, and then strip it in short bursts like a shrimp trying to get away. If the fish sees your fly, and if it is interested, it will follow; then, if your fly resembles the food it is searching for, and if your strips are just right to imitate a quick swimming crustacean, the bone might pick it up. And when it picks up your fly, the hook-set is another hard strip to drive the point into the fish's hard mouth. And then....

And then, you suddenly realize the whole point of the exercise! Even a small bonefish will run you into your backing in seconds, and it will run again and again. The power of these fish has to be experienced to be believed. There are no jumps or head-shakes, just speed and power. My first bone was maybe 15 or 16 inches long, and it took me more than 10 minutes hauling on an 8wt. rod to get it in.



An Eleuthera Bone

Eleuthera's bonefish are not generally large, but plentiful... perfect for learning the art of

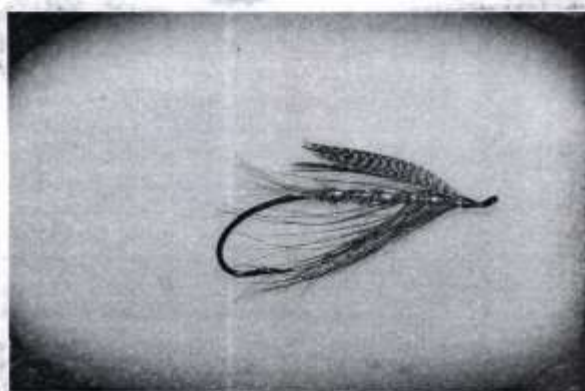
catching them. However, one day, while Mike and I were exploring a huge expanse of flats at the southern end of the island, we spotted an enormous bonefish... Mike said the biggest he had seen in 20 years of fishing for them. I got one cast and it disdainfully turned from my fly and cruised slowly away. Mike told me that it was just as well that I hadn't hooked it, because if I had, one of two things would have happened: most likely, it would have taken my line and been half way to Cuba before it slowed down... or, if I managed to land it, he would have had to kill me and claim he had caught it!

On another day, Mike introduced us to his longtime friend Charles Sands, who is an Eleutheran institution. He runs a construction company, owns the local dive shop, and preaches at several of the island's many churches. Charles took us to a remote flat in the harbor of one of the many tiny villages along the length of the island, and pointed out the resident school of bonefish. From the pier, I could make them out as a light grey cloud cruising around the bay, but from the water I could not see them at all. Charles' cry of "Right in front of you, mon!" became our motto for the rest of the week. Eventually, he just told me to cast the fly 30 feet out and a bit to my left, then instructed me when to strip the fly... and bang! Bonefish on!

Our introduction to fishing for bones was enormous fun, but what made the week on Eleuthera really special was that it wasn't all about fishing. Sometimes a week at a fishing camp or lodge can be just too intense and single-minded. Under the guidance of Mike and Kerry Ann, we enjoyed long walks on the incredible deserted beaches that skirt the island, did some sightseeing in the picturesque seaside villages that reminded us of Newfoundland outposts (but with palm trees), enjoyed the weekly street dance and fish fry in Governor's Harbour, and sampled a selection of quiet restaurants and lively bars. As great as the fishing was, this was more than a fishing

trip; it was a fabulous vacation. And, yes, we're going back again next year! At about \$1,800 per person plus flight, this type of introduction to bonefishing beats an average cost of \$3,500 where you don't 'learn' to bonefish but rather do only what the guide tells you. A follow-up article will share our experience of a self guided return trip to Eleuthera. Mike and Kerry Ann Scanlan can be reached at bonefisher@sympatico.ca

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The following Spey flies were tied by Jin Lee at our last tying meeting Ed



Lady Caroline



March Brown

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for IWFFC Activities Activity Calendar 2011

Status	Date	Event	Volunteer Needs	Contact
Definite	Feb. 18 - 21	Fishing and Boat Show	Kids fly tying and club booth. Need 3 people per shift.	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Definite	April 9 - 10	Fly Fishing Forum	Many	Geoff MacGregor 905 939 7006 gmac.312@gmail.com
Tentative	April 16	TU Cleanup at Sligo	Everyone	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Definite	April 29 - May 1	Brampton Home show	Kids fly tying. Need 2 people/shift Need someone to take over while PK attends tree planting in Orangeville.	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Definite	April 30	Tree Planting at Orangeville	Everyone.	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Definite	May 28	Children's Water Festival at Heart Lake 10AM-3PM	Kids fly tying. Need 3 people	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Tentative	June 4 - 5	Bread and Honey Festival	Kids fly tying. Need 2 people/shift	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Definite	June 11	Family fun Day at Lowville	Kids fly tying. Need 2 people	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Tentative	July 9	Family Fishing Day at Lake Aquitaine	Kids fly tying	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Tentative	August	Stream Rehab at Upper Credit Cons. Area	Everyone	Donna Cridland (416) 232-1470 donna.cridland@sympatico.ca
Tentative	August 13	Hillsburgh Family Fun Day	Kids fly tying. Need 2 people	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Tentative	Oct. 2	Salamander Festival at Belfountain	Kids fly tying. Need 2 people	Pat Kelly 905 277 2505 patckelly@look.ca
Tentative	Oct.	Spawning Survey	Everyone	Register at creditvallycons.ca
Tentative	Oct.	Spawning Survey	Everyone	Register at creditvallycons.ca

Above is the activity calendar for 2011. If you can spare a couple of hours please contact Pat Kelly as indicated and help promote the club. Thanks. **Ed**

TECH & TIPS

Mike Scanlan

*TECH & TIPS, is a new feature developed to share ideas, short cuts, unique sources & techniques and time saving tips on the art of fly tying. Every tyer has developed their unique way of doing a complicated step and every tyer has his secret source for material and supplies. Tech & Tips is designed to be clipped and saved by the beginner fly tyer to become a compendium of helpful ideas on the passionate art of fly tying. Submit your techniques & tips for future issues and help further the art. **Ed***

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COLOURING EPOXY:

Years ago I was sent a letter from a fly fishing buddy with well used flies taped to the letter. I recognized the flies as ones I had tied a year earlier for bonefish in the Bahamas. Notes and suggestions were scribbled beside each fly; more hair on this one, use colour as on #1 fly, used black eyes on all flies. All this was useful information in my quest for the perfect fly. One fly in particular caught my attention; this colour is best on sandy bottom, the note said, but I couldn't for the life of me remember how to get that special 'rootbeer' shade to the epoxy. Some experimentation with colouring epoxy only led to frustration as most colouring agents turned the epoxy dark or black. I finally arrived at using TRANSPARENT CALLIGRAPHERS INK, available at most art supply stores. The transparent inks are available in a wide variety

of colours and give epoxy the transparency to reflect light.

SUBSTITUTE EPOXY:

After experimenting with epoxy and colouring it for bonefish flies for years I was on a new quest to find a substitute that I could still get in colour but didn't require the turning wheel or 12 hour drying time. Experiments were made with goop, hardeners, ultra violet lights and other innovative ideas. While scrounging through a local craft store I discovered the wonderful world of FABRIC PAINT.

It fitted all my criteria; it was inexpensive and it was inexpensive. It comes in a wide variety of colours, some opaque, some clear, some with sparkle and some with texture to them. I even found that I could custom make my desired colour by combining the clear (looks white in the squeeze bottle but dries clear) with that old standby, the transparent calligraphers ink from my epoxy days. Wonderbar! fabric paint stays where you put it on the fly, can be shaped somewhat with the nozzle of the bottle, doesn't require a drying wheel and is hard enough to the touch after a couple of hours.



I use a lot of SRETCH MAGIC CORD (available at most dollar stores as stretchy jewelry cord, stretch magic or craft cord) on my shrimp bodies. So I experimented with using the stretchy cord for eye stems and low & behold, I got the 'movement-while-at-rest' that I was looking for. I later simplified the whole process by not trying to burn the bump into the end of the cord (too many close calls) I simply applied that now familiar old standby FABRIC PAINT to the end of the small piece of stretchy cord straight from the squeeze bottle. I could shape the 'eye' with the nozzle and set it aside to dry in an hour or so.

REALISTIC SHRIMP EYES:

One of the frustrating things about adding eyes to a shrimp or crab pattern is 'the first eye never stays in place when tying on the second eye'. The other frustrating thing is achieving that 'just right movement' on a resting fly. The traditional method of making shrimp eyes is to use mono line of a suitable test and burning the end of a length of the mono to form an eye or bump, then colouring that eye with black epoxy or paint. Often 20 or 30 pound mono is too stiff to give 'movement' to a resting fly and it has that annoying curve to it when freshly off the spool.

Crystal Flashes !!

Crystal Bowersox was last years American Idol runner up. She was seen on TV wearing some earrings made from Whiting Saddles and as a result of the show, 'Hackle Earrings' are "in"...bigtime. Another fashion trend is that women are including saddle hackle in their hair extensions. This exposure has affected the hackle market. So much so that prices have increased 30 to 50% on some saddles. So don't be shocked next time you hand a saddle to the cashier?? Ed