

# TIME TESTED IN FRESH OR SALT

## *Armand's Skipping Bug*

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In 1950, the late Joe Brooks wrote the book *Salt Water Fly Fishing*. During that time period, fishing in the salt with a fly rod was rare. This historic book contains a list of fly patterns. One of the top water patterns was

### **Upperman Joe Brooks' Popping Bug.**



JOE BROOKS' POPPING BUG

This pattern included the following: Hook: 3/0 Z nickel, Body: white balsa wood, 1 1/2 inch long round, flat face and Tail 3 inches long.

In 1965 to 1975, my early season striper fishing was done in the Taunton, Coles, Lee's and the Kickamuit River systems. I fished from a canoe in coves and waded. I am a long line fly caster. With my 8 1/2 foot glass rod I found the Brooks Popper was tough to cast. I really believed the hook was too heavy.

I tied deer hair bugs for fresh water bass. I decided to tie a bug for striped bass. On page two you see the original tie: Hook Mustad #3665A size 1/0 (no longer made in this size), Tail White bucktail 3 inches long, Body Natural deer body hair spun and trimmed.

Using this bug on my 8 1/2 foot Shakespeare glass fly rod rated for 8 wgt. line, I lined the rod with AirCel or Cortland 333 wf-9-f on my Plueger Medalist 1495 reel. I was able to make 90 to 100 foot casts.



## Armand's Skipping Bug

Hook- O'Shaugnessey Mustad #34011,  
Daiichi #X472, size 2/0.

Thread- Kevlar white or yellow

Tail- white bucktail 3 inch long,

Body- white, yellow, or natural deer  
body hair tied on then trimmed.

Cement the head.

### ARMAND'S SKIPPING BUG

Typically I would paddle into a quiet cove. Standing in the canoe I would cast my bug along the eel grass or open water and I stripped my bug in foot long strips. I love top water

fishing. Sometimes bass would use their tail and

whack the bug and then come in for the kill. Other times they made hard surprising strikes. In the evening bass would give up their search for herring and take my small offering. That was something I could never grasp. The deer hair bug has been my favorite bug to use on the surface. It works well on bluefish also.

I remember a time when I had taken two bluefish over 12 pounds on a Gartside Grugler Bug. The bug was totally destroyed. I reached into my bug book and put on the Armand's Skipping Bug. I thought after landing one fish it would be destroyed. After six more blues the bug showed no indication of being destroyed. Being made of soft deer body hair, the bluefish would sink their teeth into the hair. When the bug was made of hard plastic or wood, it would crack or break.

AJC

