

April 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

April Meeting: Room 202 Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. Flytying 6:00 pm; Regular meeting 7:00 pm

President's Message

Last month we took a telephone survey of our members to try to determine the interest of our members on several topics. We managed to contact 58% (28 out of 48) of the people on the March mailing list. Understandably, none of the doctors who are members, had home phone numbers listed, but we did leave messages at their offices where the survey was online and how it could be filled out and returned. One member more less resigned since they were moving out of state. Out of the responses obtained 92.8% (26 out of 28) indicated they still had an interest in the club. The percentages (rounded to the tenths place) from here on will reflect the 26 who continued with the survey. Of those surveyed 53.8% believe we should meet every month; 7.7% believe we should meet every other month; 15.4% believe we should meet quarterly; and 23.1% had no opinion. The next question was if a flytying session should be held with every meeting. The results were 53.8% yes, 19.2% no, and 26.9% no opinion. The special events that were the respondents believe the club should hold are 1) yearly conclave - 76.9%; 2) trips to out of town locations - 73.1%; 3) local fishing trips with members on an afternoon/Saturday - 69.2%; 4) casting clinics - 69.2%; 5) beginning flytying clinic - 65.4%; 6) seminars on other more remote locations (i.e trip of a lifetime type stuff) for flyfishing - 3.8%. The next question was was types of activities as mentioned above would the person participate in: conclaves -34.6%; casting

clinics - 26.9%; fishing trips - 26.9%; beginning flytying clinic - 23.1%. The next question was how often the newsletter should be published: Monthly - 46.2%; every other month - 11.5%; quarterly - 15.4%; and no opinion - 26.9%. What the members believed should be in the newsletter: fishing reports - 73.1%; fly patterns - 69.2%; articles by members & non-members - 65.4%; news affecting the outdoors - 69.2%. The next question was about delivery of the newsletter, whether U.S. Mail or via e-mail was preferred: U.S. Mail - 46.2%; e-mail - 42.3%; and no opinion - 11.5%. The next question was whether people were aware of the club webpage: Yes - 57.7%; No - 15.4%; and no answer - 26.9%. The next question was what content people wanted on the club webpage: meeting announcements - 69.2%; flypatterns - 69.2%; fishing reports - 69.2%; calendar of fly fishing events - 65.4%; links to other flyfishing sites - 69.2%; information on guides - 69.2%; archive of newsletters and conclave flyers - 69.2%. The next question was whether people were interested in merchandise with the club logo on it (such as a ballcap or T-shirt): Yes - 50%; No - 15.4%; and no opinion - 34.6%. Suggestions that were made were get more involved in fishing trips, especially local trips, but still plan some out of town trips; to try some joint meetings with other fishing groups in the area; to have casting practice before meetings, to have a wider variety of flies appear in the newsletter, to have a featured fly at the flytying session before the meeting which someone would demonstrate how to tie, to increase membership (but no suggestions as how

to do that), and to cut down on the number of meetings per year (as can be seen from the results above, not that popular an idea). I've got to give a huge thanks to my wife who did all the calling while I was stuck doing work for the Chemistry Department at McNeese (which still hasn't let up).

Well now it is clear what the majority of the membership wants...now to implement it. Many of the desired things take a fair amount of work, and for that we need members to SHOW UP for meetings...it hard to do much planning when you don't have enough people. Conclaves and casting clinics, flytying clinics take planning (especially since we normally have food associated with such events). The old proverb "Many hands make light work" was never truer than when applied to such events. As for webpage content, I can change that relatively easily - it looks like people want more fly patterns put up on the site, so I'll try to that over the next month or so. People seem to want fishing reports, the best I can do is about a weekly report that I will try to glean from my firends over at Lake Charles Tackle. If you have a report from fishing, please e-mail it to me at chemprof2001@yahoo.com so I can incorporate it. As for more variety in fly patterns in the newsletter, I've been begging for a long time for people to send me patterns. Even if you just want to know a pattern, send me the name, and I'll search the pattern out. As for the featured fly during the flytying sessions prior to the meeting, that one is easily done. I'll even volunteer for the first one. I'll tie some version of the Serendipity (this month's) freshwater fly. Yes, you'll all get to see me struggle tying a trout fly. But we'll need a volunteer and another fly for May. Casting practice until this month was problematical. Since Daylight Savings Time has begun, however, there is enough daylight to do so, and there is room behind Kirkman Hall and Frazar Library to teach casting. There's even water...Contraband Bayou runs right behind both buildings (and contains mullet, bream, bass, gar, and during the summer if salinities get high enough, small ladyfish). So casting practice is possible as well. But to do all this, attendance needs to pick up at our meetings. The past two meetings we were down to only four or five. We will be trying to arrange some speakers for our meetings as well. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, please contact me with their name. I'd really appreciate it. It's now time to end this longest of all the messages I've every written.

Mark Delaney

Fishing Reports

Probably the biggest surprise in fishing reports is that large bass are being caught out of Lacassine Refuge in good numbers. Not long ago they were worried whether any significant numbers of bass were left. I haven't heard reports on crappie or bream from Lacassine yet, however. On the saltwater side of things, with the salinities high with the low rainfall totals we've had so far this year, reports of good catches of specks and reds occur every few days, mainly in Calcaseiu Lake. However, many are fishing the more northern parts of the lake, since the southern parts still contain many submerged obstacles. If you go to the southern part, take it slow and be careful.

Fly Fishing 101

On May 13, 2006 the Red Stick Fly Fishers will put on Fly Fishing 101 from 8:30 am - 3 pm, at Wadill Outdoors Center, 4142 N. Flannery Rd, Baton Rouge, LA. Pre-registration for the event is required. To register contact Jody Titone, 225/381-3167, jpt@bsw11p.com ; or Roger del Rio 225/907-4471; DR192640@aol.com . This is an excellent event for those just ghetting into fly fishing. Attendance is limited to the first 40 registrants. Subject covered will include fly casting, fly tying, leaders and knots; plus a presentation. Handouts, tying materials and refreshments will be provided, as will door prizes. Attendees are requested to bring their rod & reel and flytying equipment, if they have them.

On the Web

Well, Hatches Magazine has come out with another monthly issue at <http://www.hatchesmagazine.com> . This months issue includes articles on giant Alaskan rainbows, 19th century salmon flies, the North Platte, flyfishing Richmond, VA, building a rod wrapping jig, protecting your identity, articles on patterns featuring the green caddis pupa, woven hex, feather duster frog, the sunken firefly, inexpensive wet flies, anc classic streamers. There is also a review of the Okuma Helios reel, and announcements concerning their 2006 photo contest and an explanation of the program that gives free Kori bustard feathers to salmon fly tyers. A fairly impressive lineup again. All for free, not bad. Tony Spezio of Flippin,AR (of Chili Pepper and Froggie fame) now has a DVD out containing instruction for the Froggie, Chili Pepper; Knit-Picken Mayfly and Tony's Stillborn Emerger

available. The URL for getting information on ordering the DVD is <http://tuholer.com/dvd.htm>.

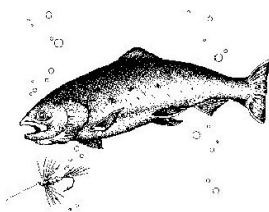
Freshwater Fly of the Month

Serendipity



Thread: color matching body
Hook: 12-20 wt fly of nymph
Body: Twisted fibers of Z-Ion or Antron
Wing: Deer hair curt short
Head: Trimmed deer hair
Ribbing: Wire counter-wrapped (often omitted)

The Serendipity is tied to represent either a midge larva or a caddis larva, depending on what color the body is. Common colors include red, green, olive, brown and white. There are quite few versions of this fly, including a bead head version. In the bead-head version, the deer hair is replaced with peacock herl. The version I plan on tying on Tuesday is probably the Crystal Serendipity. That version is white Z-Ion with a rib of about four strands of pearl Krystal flash counter-wrapped. The Crystal Serendipity is supposed to be the hot fly up in the Yellowstone area at the moment. The example above was tied by Craig Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies of Yellowstone, MT. The only trick seems to be twisting the Z-Ion or Antron fibers tightly and wrapping them to get a nice segmented body. Fishing the fly often requires a use of a small split shot, or other weight on the leader, to get the fly down to the fish.



Saltwater Fly of the Month

John Morin's Crab Apple



Weight: Lead dumbbell eyes
Hook: 2/0 wide gap Varivas
Body: Tan or Brown Foam covered with 3 pheasant neck feathers
Eyes: Burnt mono
Legs: 6 Indian Neck Dark Ginger hackles
Claws: Pheasant neck feathers
Mouth: Dark Krystal flash and tan rabbit strip

This is a very realistic looking crab imitation. The body is built on tan or brown craft foam cut to the shape of a crab body. A thin layer of epoxy is put on top of the foam and 3 feathers put over the top, to make the body (place the center one first, try not to move the feathers too much). While that's curing put the hook in the vise and tie in the weighted eyes on top of the hook more near the center than the eye of the hook. Tie in the mouth parts, dark Krystal flash and a small piece of tan rabbit strip at the bend of the hook. After the epoxy on the body has cured, flip it over and arrange the 6 dark ginger hackles as legs and epoxy them in place. Prepare the eyes by burning the tips of some monofilament line. After the body has cured again, trim the mono eyes, and glue them into the edge of the body, using a bodkin to make the hole the eyes fit into to. Invert the hook and superglue the body (carapace) to the hook. The next step is to use some Goop to glue two pheasant feathers to the bottom of the carapace for the claws. After that cures (time for dinner...) Mix up some epoxy and coat the bottom of the carapace and the beginnings of the stems of the claws. Make sure the epoxy will make a good attachment of the carapace to the hook. After curing turn the fly so the top of the carapace is uppermost again, and coat with epoxy. Finally, after curing use a brown permanent marker to put random spots on the carapace. John's original instructions can be found at [http://www.flytyingforum.com/index.php?act=flyshow&s=\\$s&showid=451](http://www.flytyingforum.com/index.php?act=flyshow&s=$s&showid=451)

Calendar

- Apr 17 NLFF Meeteing 7 pm Camp Forbing, LA
Apr 18 CFC Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room
202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles,
LA
Apr 20 PBFF Fly Tying 7 pm Glass Menagerie, 1845
Causeway Blvd., Covington, LA
Apr 20 NOFF Fly Tying 7:30 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 141
Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA
Apr 21- ORFF Warmwater Rendezvous Lake, Lake 23
D'Arbonne, LA
Apr 21- RSFF Lake Concordia Trip, Lake Concordia,
23 LA
Apr 24 RSFF Fly Tying 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries
Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Apr 24 ORFF Meeting 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr.,
Monroe, LA
May 1 ORFF Flytying 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr.,
Monroe, LA
May 2 AFR Meeting 6 pm, Grace Presbyterian
Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
May 3 PBFF Meeting 7 pm, Louisiana Food &
Spirits on Lee Lane, Covington, LA
May 8 RSFF Meeting 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries
Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
May 13 RSFF Fly Fishing 101 8:30 am - 3 pm, Wadill
Outdoors Center 4142 N. Flannery Rd, Baton Rouge,
LA, Pre-Reg. Required contact Jody Titone, 225/381-
3167 jpt@bsw11p.com or Roger del Rio 225/907-
4471 DRI92640@aol.com
May 16 NLFF Meeting 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
May 16 CFC Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting
Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake
Charles, LA

Officers

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