

April 2008

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

April Meeting: April 15, 2008 in Kirkman Hall, Room 200 on the McNeese campus in Lake Charles, LA. Fly tying 6:00 pm, meeting 7:00 pm

Vice President's Message

I've been busy traveling to various meetings the past month or so. Some were related to my job (Louisiana Academy of Sciences meeting in Natchitoches, and National American Chemical Society meeting in New Orleans) and some related to fly fishing (tying at Redstick Day in Baton Rouge, going to the Acadiana Fly Rodders Conclave in Lafayette). I don't have to make another out of town trip until the second week of May. (I could have gone to the Spring Rendezvous at D'Arbonne this coming weekend, but I think discretion is the better part of valor. I'd like to stay married...my wife is beginning to think I've been gone a bit much the past month.) So I'll have a bit to say later in the newsletter about a lot of these events (even the trip the National American Chemical Society meeting...I had to leave for the meeting very early Monday and head back Monday afternoon. I got too tired to keep driving about when I got to Gonzales, so I stopped and got a cheap room for the night and managed to fit a trip to Cabela's in Monday night's schedule. Last month after Redstick Day I managed to fit in a trip to Bass Pro in Denham Springs, so I'll also report on that as well.)

The club had a very nice outing at Fred Hannie's pond, and Fred grilled sausage and pork, with other side dishes being brought by the attendees. It was a very pleasant event starting at 2 pm and ending just after sunset (when the mosquitoes started making a major appearance). Everyone caught fish. Bass and bluegill were the order of the day. Dave Stewart managed to catch a bass on a Calcasieu Pigboat he had tied (see our January newsletter). Unfortunately the next fish he hooked with it was a gar, that cut him off and took his pigboat. During the afternoon most of the bluegill were caught on underwater nymph patterns of various colors. Around sunset and just after though, the ticket was a small white popper, just cast out. No retrieve was really necessary since the bluegill

would just hit it as it was floating. We owe Fred Hannie tremendous thanks for letting us visit his house and pond again.

Most of my other efforts have been working on the Gulf Coast Council website Expo 2008 page. You will now find almost all of the links live (I'm not sure when the Casting Certification, and Women & Youth Activities links will be live, but the Schedule of Activities will be completed soon.) Most important is that registration materials are now available (see below).

Mark Delaney

April 15th Meeting of the Contraband Fly Casters

The big feature of our April 15th meeting will be a materials and hook swap. You know you've bought materials, only later to discover you *already* had the material. And you probably have some hooks of a design that you have decided you don't like. It is time to trade. Somebody else in the club probably would love some of these materials and hooks. You might not come away from this meeting with any less stuff, but at least you'll go home with a *different* collection of stuff!!

Gulf Coast Expo 2008 May 16 - 17th in Lake Charles



The 2nd Gulf Coast Expo of the Gulf Coast Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be held Friday and Saturday May 16 -17, 2008 at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Special invited guests include Bruce Richards (casting & line expert employed by Scientific Anglers), Nick Curcione (one of our headliners last year), Tim Borski (well-known fly tyer and artist) and Mark Sedotti (casting expert from the northeast of the US). Over the two day period there will be different demonstration 70 fly tyers available to learn from, and various programs and workshops. On Friday night there will be a crawfish boil, and Saturday evening will be the banquet and auction. During the day both days there will also be items raffled off as well.

Registration for the event has been active since April 7th and materials are available at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=Expo-2008>. What is new for this year is that online registration is available (credit card or check). A \$2.00 processing fee is charged for online registration. Online registration allows you to register multiple people and derive schedules for each person. A mail-in registration form (check only) is also available. You'll also find a few merchandise items in the online registration as well, a 2008 GCC Expo commemorative pin (\$5.00, the design should be very similar to the image at the beginning of this story) and a Gulf Coast Council fishing cap featuring the GCC logo (\$12.00).



Links to the registration forms are also on the GCC newsletter page.

If you have an e-mail address, you should have gotten the GCC spring 2008 newsletter very recently. Otherwise, you'll need to check the GCC website at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=communications>.

(There is a very good chance that Nick Curcione might not be able to make ti the GCC Expo, since he will be recovering from surgery. If that happens, the GCC will make every effort to cover Nick's workshops with an appropriate instructor.)

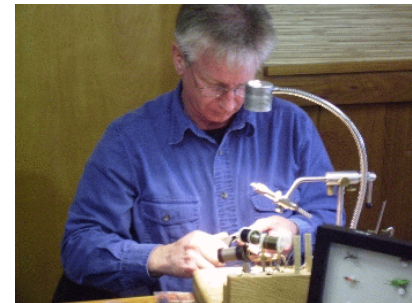


Redstick Day 2008

Redstick Day 2008 March 8th at the Waddill Outdoor Education Center in Baton Rouge featured Terry and Roxanne Wilson, Nick Curcione, and Pete Cooper, Jr. I was able to see most of the Wilson's presentation and Pete Cooper, Jr.'s presentation since where I was tying was near where the presentation were being given. Both were excellent. There was also quite a group of distinguished tyers there as well (I'm not including myself as "distinguished" mind you). Present were Joe McMahon, Bob Boese, Dirk Burton, Don Richardson, Barry Dauphin and Marc Pinsel.



Marc Pinsel



Dirk Burton



A Nice Set of Poppers in the Raffle



Set of Flies in the Raffle - some of these look ready to fly away!

Acadiana Fly Rodders Conclave

The Acadiana fly Rodders Conclave was held on April 5th at Grace Presbyterian Church in Lafayette. Several presentations were given, but I didn't attend any of the presentations opting instead to observe various fly tyers and learn some tricks and techniques from them. I spent quite a while watching Diane Blair tying with deer hair.



Some of Richard's woven flies

I also spent some time watching Mike Racca tie:



One of Diane's deer hair flies

I also learned a few things from Diane's husband, Richard Blair:



One of Mike's Flies

Ray Boudreaux was tying small panfish and trout flies:



A couple of Ray's flies

Kyle Moppert was making eyes, and coating heads with a water-based clear cement. (Kyle has asthma, and the solvents in many of the head cements and glues can trigger and attack.)



Kyle Moppert



One of Kyle's creations

I also spent time with Fred Dupre', Bob Boese, and Bill Heugel. I regret to not getting around to see Bill Sargent tie deer hair flies. Marc Pinsel and Bill Heugel were also there tying, as well as several youngsters, who i didn't get a chance to talk to either.

I actually finally won something at one of these silent auction events: an 8 wt sinking shooting head mad by Scientific Anglers. I'll definitely be trying that out soon.

Quick Shopping Trips to Bass Pro in Denham Springs and Cabelas in Gonzales

After Redstick Day wound up on March 8th, I went just 3 miles further east on I-12 to the Bass Pro Shop in Denham Springs. The place was very crowded, but there was still adequate parking. I took a quick look around the entire store and then headed for the White River Fly Shop portion of the store. There was a fair amount of fly tying material (you've got to remember that I'll have a jaded perspective, every time i visit my mother & brothers out in southern California, I end up in Bob Marriott's in Fullerton). My immediate needs were #D prismatic eyes, which they had. The other thing I needed was two fly reels. The staff was helpful (but they had a problem realizing which one of them had the key to the reel cabinet.) I finally settled on two Hobbs Creek 7-8 large arbor reels, one for the 8-9 wt 4 piece rod I built as part of our rod building class, and the other to replace a graphite reel that is literally falling apart. Although these are cast and not machined reels, the fit and quality looked to be quite good, and the drag seemed easily adjustable, and the price affordable (approximately \$40 each). I then looked around at the rod selection (something I definitely *don't* need). Rods from Browning, Albright, TFO, Sage, St. Croix, Orvis, as well as their won Bass Pro lines were displayed. I was impressed by the selection of flies carried by the Bass Pro fly shop. It was quite evident that they'd talked to people about effective flies for the area. I managed to get out of the store spending only \$100.

Coming back from the American Chemical Society on meeting in New Orleans Monday April 7th I stopped in Gonzales and got a room, being too tired to continue driving (Due to an overly full schedule I had to leave Monday morning at 3:30 am to make the meeting where I was supposed to present a talk.) Since it was early evening, I made a trip to the Cabelas store and had a look around. Their fly shop is smaller than Bass Pros, with a bit less fly tying material. They do have a better selection of low to mid-priced fly reels (not all Cabelas brands, but lots of Pfluegers). Besides the Cabelas brand fly rods, rods from TFO, St. Croix, Loomis, Highland Mills American (definitely out of my price range!), Sage, and Sierra were all on display. My needs were not fly rods or reels but instead an

new 5wt wirth forward fly line (My old 5 wt line is at least 10 years old and no matter how much I stretch it, it performs better as a slinky than a fly line), some lead wire, and a bobbin threader. I found all of that easily enough and ended up with a bill of \$40.12. I feel fortunate to have visited both stores and gotten out of them for a total of less than \$150. Too much stuff and way too tempting!! If you are headed to the Baton Rouge area, the Bass Pro shop is definitely worth a visit. If you are headed past Baton Rouge on I-10 I'd make sure to work in a visit to Cabelas somehow.

Freshwater Fly of the Month

Pink Panfish Producer



Hook: #10 - 16 Nymph hook

Thread: Black 8/0 Gudebrod or equivalent

Weight: .015 lead wire (4-5 wraps right behind the bead)

Bead: 1.5-3mm Gold Bead head, whichever size you like

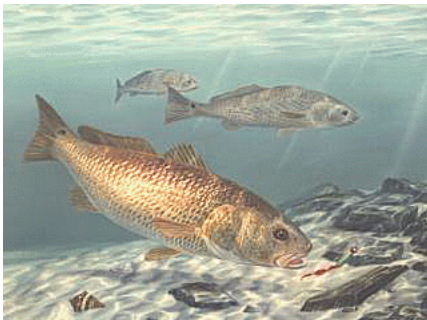
Tail: Black squirrel tail (can be subbed by calf tail or body hair)

Body: Fluorescent pink medium sized chenille (use Ultra size on the 14's and 16's)

Hackle: Black rooster or hen

Tying Instructions: Put on the bead, lay down the lead. Tie in the tail.(about the length of the hook shank) Palmer on the Chenille, tie it off, putting a big thread neck behind the bead. Tie in the hackle, make the number wraps necessary to give a good collar, tie off and add a drop of head cement on the thread and you are ready to fish.

This pattern is courtesy Chuck Alexander, a resident of Alabama. Over the past year this fly has been his top producer for bluegill, redear, etc.



Saltwater Fly of the Month

Laminated Foam Popper



Hook: 1/0 to 2/0 Mustad 92611 or Eagle Claw 66NA

saltwater hook with offset straightened

Body: Laminated Fun Foam glued together with rubber cement, or contact cement

Eyes: 4 mm Wiggle Eyes

Tail: Flash and 2 pair of saddle hackles tied splayed

Tying Instructions: Laminate layers of Fun Foam or door hanger foam together using rubber cement, contact cement or water-based contact cement. If using water-based contact cement, laminate the foam and put a weight such as a large book on the foam overnight. Using a sharpened brass tube, punch cylinders for bodies out of the desired diameter. The bodies may be sanded with an emery board to give them a smoother appearance. they can be further shped using a Dremel tool lathe and emery boards if so desired. Using a razor blade cut a slit in the body and glue in the hook using Goop or E-6000. Glue on 4 mm wiggle eyes using Goop, E-6000 or superglue. Allow the Goop or E-6000 to cure overnight assuring a good bond between popper body and hook. Apply flash material to tail and two pairs of saddle hackle, splayed. You are now ready to fish with a very large, light popper.

Fishing Reports

Freshwater fishing has been picking up, with panfish hitting well, just about everywhere. The good news is that on the Calcasieu River, the bass are back. Bass fishing has been slow since 2005 when Rita hit. This year decent reports of moderate numbers of 10 to 15 inch are common. Don't expect any really large bass yet, but they are on their way back. Saltwater fishing remains good, with reds still spread all over, and specks being reported in large catches soime days and not so good others. The specks seem to like more stable weather conditions.



Calendar

- Apr 11-13 D'Arbonne Rendezvous, Lake D'Arbonne State Park, Famerville, LA
Apr 14 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Apr 15 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Apr 15 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm fly tying, 7 pm meeting Room 200, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles LA
Apr 17 NOFF Fly tying 2, 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 1441 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA
Apr 18-20 Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Camp Grant Walker, Pollack, LA
Apr 22 Earth Day
Apr 24 NOFF Mtg., 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 1441 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA
Apr 25-27 Redstick Lake Concordia trip, Lakeview Lodge, Ferriday, LA
Apr 28 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA 71201
Apr 28 RSFF Fly tying, 7 pm, LA Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
May 2-3 Smallmouth Rendezvous, Tallequah Community Bldg., Tallequah, OK
May 6 AFR Mtg., 6:30 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church Hall, 415 Roselawn Blvd, Lafayette, LA (casting instruction 6 pm)
May 12 RSFF Fly tying, 7 pm, LA Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
May 16-17 Gulf Coast Expo, Lake Charles Civic Center, Lake Charles, LA
May 20 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
May 20 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm fly tying, 7 pm meeting Room 200, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles LA

Officers

President: Ron Begnaud, 337/477-7584,
redchaser@redchaser.com

Vice President: Mark Delaney, 337/475-5956 (Off),
337/477-3845 (Home), chemprof2001@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Danny Williams, 337/479-4077,
dwilliams@lwcpafirm.com

Newsletter Editor: Mark Delaney, 337/477-3845,
chemprof2001@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Ron Begnaud, 337/477-7584,
redchaser@redchaser.com

Club e-mail address:

contrabandflycasters@yahoo.com , messages will
come from "Jean Lafitte"

Club website: <http://www.contrabandflycasters.com>

Alternate website: <http://cbfc0.tripod.com/index2.htm>

316 W. LaGrange St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-1508