

August 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters  
Tom Nixon Chapter

**August Meeting: Tuesday, August 15, 2006 in Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. 7:00 pm, Flytying 6:00 pm**

#### **President's Message**

The big news is that the Gulf Coast Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is now an existing entity. The Gulf Coast Council will start as a sub-council of the Southern council. All this happened at the August 5<sup>th</sup> organizational meeting held at the Southwest Louisiana Fishing Club in Lake Charles. I'd personally like to thank Ron Begnaud for making the arrangements for the Southwest Fishing club's use, and thank Ron and Danny Williams for frying a fish lunch. Thanks also go to Ron Foreman for help the coffee & soft drinks, and to Jim Gill and David Trahan for helping Ron and Danny with lunch. Ron Thomas also attended the meeting, so the Contraband Fly Casters were well represented at the meeting. See the article a bit later for more details.

I recently saw a distressing article online, describing the results of an electroshock survey of the Calcasieu River above the saltwater barrier. The survey revealed that there were very few bass and only a few more panfish. It has been speculated that saltwater intrusion due to Hurricane Rita, followed by a drought until recently. It may take a while for the river to recover. That certainly explains the lack of freshwater reports from the river this year.

On the LNG front, the only news is that Freeport-McMoran is planning to reapply for a permit, this time using closed-loop technology. Little opposition

to the new application is expected.

Mark Delaney

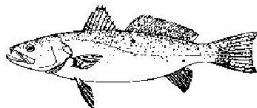
#### **August 5<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting of the Gulf Coast Council of the FFF**

At the July meeting the Contraband Fly Casters voted unanimously to become an Affiliate Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers. This vote allowed us to become involved with the proposed Gulf Coast Council. On August 5<sup>th</sup> the organizational meeting of the Gulf Coast Council of the FFF was held at the Southwest Louisiana Fishing Club in Lake Charles. Articles of Incorporation were reviewed and approved. The Gulf Coast Council will be incorporated in Louisiana to start with. Bylaws were reviewed and will be amended/approved at a meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Toledo Bend Rendezvous at North Toledo Bend State Park near Zwolle, LA. Elections of officers followed. Glen (Catch) Cormier of Baton Rouge was elected President. The Secretary ended up being Larry Offner of Baton Rouge. Danny Williams of Lake Charles was elected Treasurer. Elected as First Vice President was Keith Richard. A series of other Vice Presidents, each responsible for a specific area. VP of Conservation is Robert Tabbert of Lafayette, VP of Membership is Walter McClendon. VP of Communication is Mark Delaney of Lake Charles. VP of Education is Ron Thomas of Lake Charles. There are two Vps of Events, Buzzy Burns and

Sidney (sorry missed the last name). That leaves a VP of Outreach unfilled and an at large FF representative. Barry Dauphin is working on a proposed logo. A discussion of fund raising followed. It was decided that clubs and individuals who donated money to the new council would be called Founding clubs and Founding Members. There will be no specified donation amount to receive this designation. These donations prior to the council receiving non-profit tax-exempt status will not be tax-deductible. Such donations to receive the Founding label must be received by January 31, 2007. Donations maybe sent to Danny Williams, 2818 Plantation Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70605. Donations/pledges from clubs and individuals present at the meeting totaled over \$4,000. More will be needed to get this council off the ground. We then adjourned for lunch. After lunch, Ron Begnaud presented a proposal to hold the first Gulf Coast Council Conclave next spring in Lake Charles at the Civic Center. Ron was appointed Conclave Chair. Bill Huegel agreed to be Flytying Chair. Ron has ascertained that the first appropriate dates are May 21-23, 2007. The dates are being voted on right now. We hope to have Lefty Kreh and Nick Curcione as featured speakers. It looks as if things are off to a good start.

### Fishing Reports

Saltwater fishing in Calcasieu Lake continues to be good...if you go at the right time. Best times seem to be very early in the morning, or at night, tossing flies at lighted docks. With the temperature in the 90s, early or at night is the only way to go. For freshwater, the Calcasieu River above the saltwater barrier is very poor. A recent electroshock survey found very few bass and some panfish, but nowhere near the usual numbers. It is speculated that this is due to saltwater intrusion due to Hurricane Rita, followed by a drought. It may take a season or two before fishing returns to normal on the river. Lacassine pool has been closed to motorized boat traffic due to low water conditions. At many spots essentially the only water is in the perimeter canal. Hopefully, some of these afternoon and evening thunderstorms will provide much needed water for Lacassine. So unless you know of a good pond or are fishing at a lake such as Bundicks, the freshwater prospects aren't too good at the moment.



### Freshwater Fly of the Month

#### One-Feather Fly



**Hook: Standard, 8-14**

**Tail: Marabou like fibers at base of feather**

**Body: Dubbed feather fibers**

**Collar: Hackle tied on wet-fly style**

**Weight: lead or other wire (optional)**

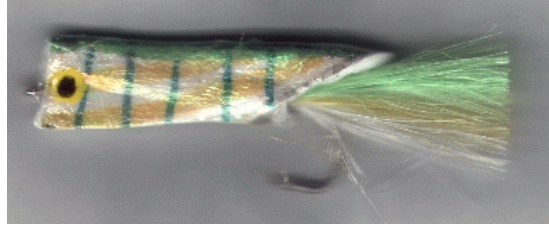
**Thread: To match hackle color**

**Tying Instructions:** The pattern for this fly was elusive to find, but had been request by one of our members. The original, a trout fly, used a pheasant church window feather. The fly here was tied with some very webby grizzly hackle that I reserve for collaring wet flies. First wind on any wire that you want for weight on the hook. Attach the thread and wind over the wire and proceed down the hook to just before the bend of the hook. From the base of one feather (that's all you need to tie the fly), pull off some marabou like fibers and tie them in as the tail. Add enough fibers to build up an adequate tail. Then dub some more feather fibers that have been pulled off the feather onto the tying thread. It may be possible to make a dubbing loop to do this, but I had more success using a liberal amount of dubbing wax and twisting the feather fibers around the tying thread. Wind on the dubbing to form body. I had to stop several time to add more feather fibers. Leave enough room for the color and head. Tie in the feather for the collar by the tip and stroke the feather so the fibers are approximately 90% to the shaft of the feather. Make as many turns as are necessary to make a decent collar. Make a neat thread head and tie off. Coat the head with head cement. This is really more of a style of tying that results in a wet fly with a marabou-like tail. Bill Huegel indicated that he had great success with this pattern on panfish.



## Saltwater Fly of the Month

### Crease Fly



**Hook: Mustad 92611 with offset straightened or other long shanked saltwater hook**

**Tail: Mylar fibers from white, yellow and chartreuse mylar dusters  
(other synthetic or natural mateilas also work well)**

**Eyes: Stick on prismatic eyes**

**Body: 2 mm craft foam, colored with Sharpies and coated with thin layer of epoxy**

The Crease Fly is a fly in which the tail is tied onto the hook, and then the body of 2 mm craft foam is glued to the hook in some fashion. Some tyers prefer sing the 2 mm craft foam with one adhesive side, others like to use cyanoacrylate (super) glue. I prefer a slower approach using either Goop or E-6000 and a Bulldog clip leaving the glue to cure overnight. I've had fewer failures with this method. The foam can also be coated with clear mylar gift wrap and textured like fish scale with a knurled handle (like a ratchet handle), coated with reflective ribbon, etc. The eyes are then put on and the whole body coated with a light coat of epoxy. This make for a durable fly. The fly may flat on its side when you cast it out. That's just fine. When you strip it will straighten up, when you pause back on te side. This greatly resembles the struggles of an injured baitfish.

Crease Flies have been known to take fish from trout to stripers and blues...quite a range and quite an effective fly.

### 2006 Contraband Fly Casters Membership Form

With our becoming an Affiliate Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers, we've had to modify our membership form a little bit. We are also in desperate need of updating our mailing list. We'd greatly appreciate it if you could return the form below, (paying your 2006 dues if you haven't already, if you have just put paid and in what month). Thanks.



## Contraband Fly Casters 2006 Membership Registration



NAME/FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/HOME \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF FISHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

COLDWATER (TROUT/SALMON)  INSHORE SALTWATER (REDFISH/SPECK/FLOUNDER)

WARMWATER (BASS/PANFISH)  OFFSHORE (LING/TRIPLETAIL/DOLPHIN, ETC.)

FLATS (BONEFISH/TARPON/PERMIT)  BIG GAME (BILLFISH/TUNA)

DO YOU OWN A BOAT?  YES  NO DO YOU OWN A CANOE/KAYAK?  YES  NO

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATIONS OF FLY FISHERS?  YES  NO

PLEASE RETURN WITH \$25 TO 2018 PLANTATION DR., LAKE CHARLES 70605. CHECKS  
PAYABLE TO CONTRABAND FLY CASTERS. MEETINGS ARE THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY  
MONTH AT 7 PM IN ROOM 202, KIRKMAN HALL ON THE McNEESE CAMPUS IN LAKE CHARLES.  
PRECEDING EVERY MEETING AT 6 PM THERE IS A FLY TYING SESSION.

## Calendar

Aug 14 RSFF Meeting, 7 pm, Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
Aug 15 NLFF Meeting, 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA  
Aug 15 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA  
Aug 17 Ponchartrain Basin Fly Fishers Fly Tying 7 pm Glass Menagerie, 1845 Causeway Blvd., Covington, LA  
Aug 17 New Orleans Fly Fishers Fly Tying 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg., 141 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA  
Aug 28 Red Stick Fly Fishers Fly Tying, 7 pm Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
Aug 28 Ouchita River Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA  
Aug 31 New Orleans Fly Fishers Meeting 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA  
Sep 4 ORFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA  
Sep 5 Ponchartrain Basin Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm Louisiana Food & Spirits on Lee Lane, Covington, LA  
Sep 5 AFR Meeting, 6:30 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA  
Sep 11 RSFF Meeting, 7 pm, Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

## Officers

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

**Vice President:** Ron Begnaud, 337/477-7584, [redchaser@redchaser.com](mailto:redchaser@redchaser.com)

**Treasurer:** Danny Williams, 337/479-4077, [dwilliams@lwcpafirm.com](mailto:dwilliams@lwcpafirm.com)

### Club e-mail address:

[contrabandflycasters@yahoo.com](mailto:contrabandflycasters@yahoo.com), messages will come from "Jean Lafitte"

**Club website:** <http://cbfc0.tripod.com>