

August 2007

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

August Meeting: Tuesday August 21, 2007 in Room 204 of Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. Rod building class (first session!, everyone is welcome.) starts at 6:00 pm with the regular meeting beginning at 7:00 pm

Vice President's Message

With triple digit temperatures, I've been sitting inside my home and anticipating fishing...in January and February. As I've aged, I've found that I tolerate the heat less well, and thus far this summer it seems to be worse. The only real fishing I've done since last month was at the fishing get-together at Fred Hannie's pond on August 4th (see report later in the newsletter). Here's hoping the temperature heads downward soon. I really don't want to catch fish that are already parboiled.

We will start a drive to get more of our members to join the FFF this month. The FFF is offering a great deal on membership until the end of the year, at \$15.00 per year (\$20 off the regular price) for new members. If you wish to join, you'll need to fill out some paper work and get it signed by our President, Ron Begnaud, and send it in with your payment. The paper work will be available at our August meeting and every meeting until the end of the year. Benefits of belonging to the FFF are reduced prices for conclaves and workshops, access to members only information on the FFF website, newsletters for the various councils (for example, at the moment you'd receive the Southern Council newsletter (since the Gulf Coast Council is currently a sub-council of the FFF), the Gulf Coast Council newsletter via e-mail, and the FFF magazine, all of which are quarterly publications. There are also other programs which

you can take advantage of as well, such as local conservation projects, education projects, etc. At the moment the Contraband Fly Casters is an affiliate club of the FFF, so we pay a fixed amount plus an amount for every non-FFF member. So if our FFF membership goes up, our affiliate dues go down.

Everyone who attended the fishing get-together at Fred Hannie's pond will tell you it was well worth the trip. We had very pleasant conversation for much of the afternoon, and Fred cooked and served a delicious meal of sausage, pork chops and corn on the cob on the grill with side dishes of baked beans, green beans, and garlic bread. I can't tell you what dessert was, since being diabetic I tend not to pay much attention to that course. I've probably missed a dish or two as well. There was definitely too much to eat, and that's what most of did—ate too much, it was all great. We owe a large debt of gratitude to Fred for all the effort he put into this event.

The other exciting thing that starts this month is our first rod building class. If you didn't order a blank through the FFF, you can still order one through a separate vendor and join us. Or if you just want to sit in and learn about the techniques, if you are not sure you want to tackle this type of project yet, that's fine too.

Fishing Get-together at Fred Hannie's Pond

On August 4th, members of the Contraband Fly Casters gathered at Fred Hannie's house for a

little bit of fishing, a lot of talking and just some fun from 2 pm until dark. Fred cooked and fed everyone, grilling pork chops, sausages, corn on the cob, with a bunch of side dishes as well. It was good to see some faces we hadn't seen in a little while again. We hope to do this kind of event more often.

As for the fishing - there is no doubt that the most serious of the fisherman present had to be David Stewart, who fished straight through the afternoon rain shower, and stopped only for dinner. David far and away caught the most fish, all of the m bream (He got the bream award, a little bream on a marble base). Al Guerrini was the second most successful fisherman, catching good numbers of bream, but also managing to land a few bass (wh were quite picky). Al took the bass trophy. No one managed to land a crappie or to remove one of the few gar in the pond.

David Stewart suggested that the trophies circulate per year if we continue to do this. Kudos to Fred Hannie for his great preparation and hospitality.

Rod Building Class

This August 21st we'll start our first session of our rod building class. The rod kits have been ordered (it took a little longer than expected since I had to get a club ID number to order the rod kits, but the FFF had neglected to tell anyone in our club what that number was. I had to wait for their office staff to get back from the summer FFF conclave held yearly in Montana). The course has been designed that it is not necessary to have the rod kits for this first session (it'd be nice, but it isn't absolutely necessary). If we are lucky, they'll be in by August 21. If not, we'll start all our hands-on stuff in September. As far as I know, this is the first time the Contraband Fly Casters have offered a rod building class. We'll also cover repair techniques, so you can repair the rods already in your inventories, if necessary.

Although it is too late to order a rod kit from the FFF, if you wish to order a rod kit from a commercial concern such as Jann's Netcraft, Cabelas, etc. you are more than welcome to join the class. If you just want to see what it entails to build a rod and not actually do it (if you are unsure you wish to tackle such a project) you are also welcome to join us.

GCC Board Meeting this Saturday

The next Gulf Coast Council Board meeting will be this coming Saturday at 11:30 pm at

Bethany Church, 3223 Westheimer Rd., Houston TX. Members of clubs are welcome to attend, but only board members may make motions and vote on motions. If you have a specific concern you wish brought up at the board meeting and can't be there, please contact Mark Delaney at 337/475-5956 or at chemprof2001@yahoo.com, so he can bring up those issues for you.

Most you have already heard that the 2008 Gulf Coast Council Conclave & Expo will be held again in Lake Charles at the Civic Center, on May 15-17 (May 15, workshops only). We hope to have most of the planning and grunt work done early this year, much of it by the first week of November. Check for details this fall at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=Expo-2008>.

2nd Annual Saltwater Fly Fisher's Picnic

This year, the event will be held on Saturday, October 13th, again at Woodland Plantation. This event will be a day full of fun, learning and an opportunity to rub elbows and swap fishing stories with some of the biggest names in fly-fishing as well as with prominent guides from LA, TX, FL and beyond. There will be opportunities to see and try out rods and other great gear from the industry's leading manufacturers as well as the opportunity to explore the finest flats skiffs in the world. There will also be a number of skilled fly casting instructors and fly-tiers on hand to help you with any aspect of the sport that you seek to grow in. The event will be highlighted with a number of special presentations given throughout the day (schedule to be determined). Special guests will include Stu Apte, Flip Pallot, Enrico Puglisi and many more. Registration for the event which is to be payed upon arrival is \$50, which includes access to the full day event along with an all-you-can eat lunch and dinner buffet consisting of authentic Cajun cuisine that would rival that in any fine dining restaurant in New Orleans. Come join us for this day of fly-fishing festivity. Pre-registration is encouraged as attendance will be limited to 200 attendees. You can register your attendance or inquire about the event by emailing your contact information or questions to Alec Griffin at neworleansflyfishing@gmail.com.



Freshwater Fly of the Month

Improved McGinty



Hook: baitholder or wet fly 6-16

Thread: Black

Body: Yellow and black chenille

Hackle: Yellow or brown, tied as collar

Tail: Red hackle fibers

Tying instructions: Attach thread to hook behind eye and wind to bend of the hook. Tie in tail or red hackle fibers. Tie in yellow and black chenille. Wind the yellow chenille over the black chenille a full turn, and then wind the black chenille over the yellow chenille a full turn, finishing up with a full turn of yellow over the black chenille. Tie off the chenilles and trim any excess chenille from the fly. Tie in the hackle (hen hackle would work well) by the tip and wind as a wet fly style collar for the fly. Make a relatively large black thread head and tie off using a whip finish. Add head cement if so desired. This is the modern "Improved McGinty." The original McGinty recipe is given below:

Original McGinty

Hook: Wet fly hook 2X sizes 6 - 16

Thread: Black

Tail: Teal flank fibers and red hackle fibers mixed

Body: Black and yellow wool yarn alternating

Wings: White tipped blue mallard quills

Beard: Dark brown hen or soft rooster hackle

McGinty's of all types have been noted panfish flies and trout flies. You might want to add this old standby to your fly box.

Saltwater Fly of the Month

Sili-Shad



Hook: Standard saltwater

Body: silver Sili-skin

Tail: pearl Sili-skin, colored yellow

Eyes: Stick on 3-D or other eyes

Spot: Black Sharpie

Tying Instructions: This a pattern that Fred Hannie has been successfully experimenting with for speckled trout. It is an obvious relative of the gummi minnow, using Sili-skin as a body material. Sili-skin is a silicone material that is quite gummy and one side is very adhesive. The body is formed by folding a piece of Sili-skin over the hook and tail piece and trimming to the desired shape. Sili-skin can be a little daunting to work with, initially. Fred says he's had great success with this fly, which lead to the next fly:

Tape Shad



This fly is essentially identical to the first with the exception being that the body is no longer Sili-skin, but highly reflective aluminum (real metal!!) Duct tape, found in most major home improvement stores. Fred say he sees no difference in effectiveness between the two flies. This latter fly is much less expensive, since Sili-skin carries a fairly high price tag as a fly tying material.

Calendar

Aug 21 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Aug 21 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 p m r o d
buildiong class, 7 pm meeting, Room 204, Kirkman
Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA
Aug 27 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg.,
Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Aug 27 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
Aug 30 NOFF Mtg., 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441
Metairie Road, Metairie LA
Sep 4 AFR Mtg., 7 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 415
Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
Sep 10 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail
Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Sep 18 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Sep 18 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm
meeting Room ???, Kirkman Hall, McNeese
campus, Lake Charles, LA

Officers

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