

December 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

**December Meeting: Tuesday December 19, 2006 in Room 202, Kirkman Hall,
McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA Flytying 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm**

President's Message

Well we have at least one reason to celebrate! For the first time in the history of the Contraband Fly Casters with the publication of this newsletter, we will have had a newsletter for every month of a year. (We came close last year but something named Rita came along in September and upset things a bit.) I don't have too much to report on this month, just tidbits here and there.

December is the month when our officer are supposed to get together and try to plan what we want to do in the next year. The past few years, we've invited everyone to have their say at our December meeting, and that's what we will do again. Think of what you would like the club to do next year, and bring it up this month. I know one topic sure to come up will be a planned trip for trout to the Little Red in Arkansas (a trip I'd love to go on.) What other activities would you like the club to do? Just remember that in May we will be busy with the 1st GCC Conclave & Expo on May 18,19 & 20, 2007.

Another topic to be considered is that election of officers comes up again in January. All positions are up for the election, President, Vice President, Treasurer and the ever vacant Secretary position (duties currently shared between Danny Williams and myself). If you would like to serve in one of these positions you might want to start campaigning. Since the club seems to have some history of electing people who manage to be absent at the January meeting, you

might want to make sure you attend the January meeting.

The last few meetings have concentrated on flytying, and have been rather enjoyable, with members learning how to tie Puglisi baitfish flies, Dorsy's Kwan fly, a nice rabbit strip crawfish, the Calcasieu Pigboat, and the Mitey Mite.

Take a break from your Christmas shopping and help us plan our activities for next year.

Mark Delaney

Late November Fishing Trip

On November 25th Ron Foreman took me fishing me fishing. We tried Black Lake, hoping to get into some trout or reds. However, if you remember, earlier that week we had our first hard freeze of the year. We went around Black Lake, and managed to get nary a bite. We did see two trout caught on conventional tackle. We then started to take a good look at the conditions...surface water temperature was 61°F, quite a drop from earlier in the week. We then proceeded out of Black Lake, to the entrance, looking for warmer water on some darker colored flats. We started getting a few hits when the surface temperature got to about 63-64°F. I finally managed to solidly hook a flounder on a small gold spoon fly (size 6 hook). The flounder was stuffed to the gills with 3" to 4" shrimp. I guess he thought he'd get a desert of a small baitfish. We were also teased by a redfish that kept just out of casting

reach (we were in Ron's bay boat, so couldn't go extremely shallow). After a few more hits, calamity struck...the shear pin on the trolling motor broke, so we decided to call it a day and head in. One lesson learned though, in winter when looking for the fish in shallow water...find the warmest shallow water! After two more hard freezes, water temperatures are in the 50s in many places.

1st GCC Newsletter Almost Ready

As the VP of Communications for the new Gulf Coast Council, one of my duties is to prepare the newsletter for the council. The first newsletter is almost complete (I'm waiting on some information from a couple of officers). Don't expect a paper copy, however. It's been decided that the most efficient way to distribute the newsletter will be via the internet. It will be posted at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org>. If you are an FFF member, you'll receive a postcard announcing the newsletter and where to find it. Many clubs distribute their information via e-mail only and so are planning on sending a pdf of the newsletter to their members. For those members of the Contraband Fly Casters with e-mail addresses, I'll do the same. Plans are to publish the newsletter quarterly.

One thing I am asking help on is content...if you have an article, a fly pattern, even a recipe to share, I'd like you to send it to me at chemprof2001@yahoo.com. Some examples of articles in the current newsletter include a message from President Catch Cormier, announcement of the 1st GCC Conclave and Expo, welcome to the newsletter, and article on conservation, coldwater, warmwater, and saltwater fly patterns, an article on the North Toledo Bend Rendezvous, club reports, a report on fishing from paddle craft, and a recipe for Pensacola Shrimp Creole. This is not a complete list of the articles, but it gives you an idea of the breadth of topics covered. Remember, *it's your news letter too!!* Help me put what you want to see in it.

2007 Events

There are a lot of events coming up with the start of the new year, and a few more date have been confirmed. February 3, 2007 is the date for the 15th Annual Fly Tying Festival held by the Texas Fly Fishers of Houston. The Festival will be held at the gymnasium of Bethany Christian Church between Eastside St. and Bammel Lane

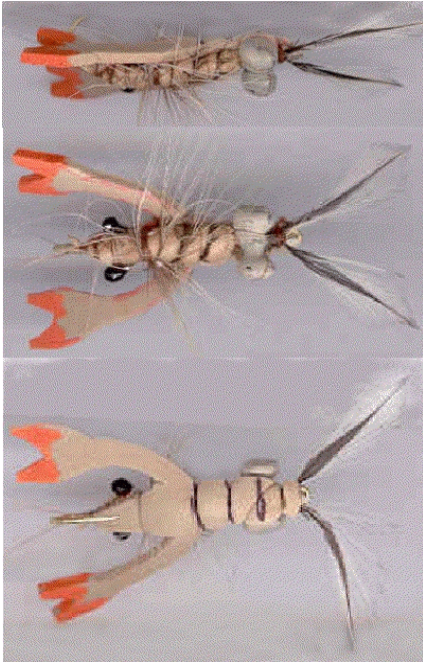
on Westheimer Rd. in Houston TX. The featured tier for the event will be C. Boyd Pfeiffer. The Arlington (TX) Flyfishing show is Saturday February 10 (9-5) through Sunday February 11 (9-4:30) at the Arlington Convention Center. Adults: \$14 one day, \$24 two days, Children under 12: \$2. The Acadiana Fly Rodders Conclave will be Saturday February 24, 2007 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 415 Roselawn Blvd. Lafayette, LA. Red Stick Fly Fishers' Redstick Day will be Saturday March 3, 2007 at the Waddill Outdoors Education Center, 4142 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge. The Louisiana Sportsman's Show will be Thursday March 8 through Sunday March 11, 2007 at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, LA. Sowbug Roundup, "A Celebration of Fly Fishing" is Thursday March 15 through Saturday March 17, 2007 at the Redeemer Lutheran Church Family Life Center, 307 W. North St., Mountain home, AR. LDWF Outdoors Woman, "Becoming an Outdoors Woman," is Friday March 16 through Sunday March 18, 2007 at Camp Grant Walker, Pollack LA. For details on this event please go to <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/education/becominganoutdoorswoman/>. The Ouchita River Fly Fisher's Expo at Lake D'Arbonne State Park is scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, April 14, 2007. The Red Stick Fly Fishers "Fly Fishing 101" event will be held on May 5, 2007 at Waddill Outdoors Center in Baton Rouge, LA. The 1st Gulf Coast Council of the FFF Conclave and Expo will be May 18, 19, & 20 at the Civic Center in Lake Charles, LA. The 16th Southeastern Council FFF conclave will be June 7-9, 2007 at Callaway Gardens, GA. Quite alist, and I didn't include any of the boat shows that seems to start cycling through the area in January and February.

Website Changes

We've had a few slight changes to websites recently. I was surprised to see that after we made the change to the new Contraband Fly Casters' website that Ron had constructed at <http://www.contrabandflycasters.com> that web traffic at the old site at <http://cbfc0.tripod.com> did not decrease. So in an effort to steer everyone to the new website, if you go to the old website at <http://cbfc0.tripod.com> you will be forwarded to the new website in approximately twenty seconds. If you want to access something at the old website (Tom Nixon swaps, patterns, guide page, etc.), you are given the choice of going to <http://cbfc0.tripod.com/index2.htm>. Use the new website, it's much faster, has no pop-ups or embedded ads on it, and is much faster.

Freshwater Fly of the Month

Foam-Backed Crawfish



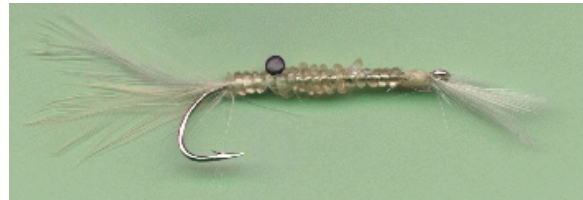
Hook: 1-1/0 Eagle Claw gold Aberdeen hook
Thread: Brown 6/0
Antennae: Mono sewing thread colored with brown Sharpie
Eyes: Artificial anthers, ends painted black
Body: 18" by 3/4" strip of thin open foam bandage material (tan) or tan chenille
Legs: Palmered badger saddle hackle
Weight: Lead eyes painted to match body color
Tail: Badger saddle hackle tips
Shellback and Claws: Tan 2 mm craft foam cut to shape

Tying Instructions: The hook is mounted in the vise and the lead eyes tied on using diagonal and figure eight wraps leaving about a 3/16" gap at the hook eye. The eyes are then further treated by using a drop of five minute epoxy. After the epoxy has dried, the eyes are painted to match the body color as closely as possible. After the paint has dried, the hook is mounted in the vise upside down. The thread is attached to the hook and wound to the bend of the hook. The antennae are tied in and then the 18" by 3/4" strip of open cell foam bandage material is tied in folded so it is 3/8" wide. Tan chenille may be substituted. This is wound on the from the bend of the hook to the lead eyes using many layers to build up the desired body size. The artificial anthers (found in

the floral or wedding sections of craft stores) with the bulbous end painted black are tied in as eyes relatively near the bend of the hook. Then a single badger saddle hackle is tied in and wound to the lead eyes to represent legs. A foam shellback and claws is cut from 2 mm craft foam and tied on. Segmentation was marked on the shellback using a fine-tipped permanent marker. The tips of the claws were painted orange using a paint pen (paint pens give a more vivid color than markers on craft foam). The colors of this crawfish can obviously be varied widely by using different colored craft foam and chenille.

Saltwater Fly of the Month

Glass Shrimp



Hook: #2 saltwater or smaller
Body: clear 'Sgetti string (found in craft stores) wound to make body
Antennae: White hackle tips
Tail: White hackle tips
Eyes: Lead eyes
Thread: White

Tying Instructions: Tie in a couple of white hackle tips at the bend of the hook to make the antennae. Tie in a length of clear 'Sgetti string (a round plastic material found in craft stores) at the bend of the hook. Advance the thread a bit up the hook towards the eye and tie in lead or bead chain eyes of the desired weight. Advance the thread to about 3/8inch behind the eye. Wrap the 'Sgetti string to make a shrimp-like body toward the eye of the hook. Tie off and trim any excess at the eye of the hook. Add a couple of white hackle tips for the tail at the eye of the hook. Tie off and add some head cement to the wraps.

This fly is meant to imitate small grass shrimp that sometimes get washed into the Gulf. The 'Sgetti string material is interesting since it comes in a lot of opaque colors, clear, clear with silver flecks and clear with gold flecks. That leads to a lot of imaginative ties of different types of flies.

Calendar

- Dec 19 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
- Dec 19 CFC Mtg., 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting, Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA
- Jan 2 AFR Mtg., 7 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 415 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
- Jan 8 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
- Jan 13-15 RSFF Little Mo Trip, Murfreesboro, AR
- Jan 16 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
- Jan 16 CFC Mtg., 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting, Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA
- Jan 22 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, LA Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
- Jan 25 NOFF Mtg., 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 1441 Metairie Rd, Metairie, LA

Officers

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