

February 2007

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

February Meeting: Tuesday February 27, 2007 in Room 203 of Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus. Flytying 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm. Speaker: Diane Bordon-Billiot, public outreach coordinator for the Sabine Wildlife Refuge

President's Message

At our February meeting, which has been pushed back to February 27th because of Mardi Gras, Dianne- Borden- Billiot with the Southwest Louisiana Refuge Complex will be our featured speaker. Dianne will show pictures and give us an update on the condition of all of the National Wildlife refuges in our area and details on openings and public access to the refuges. This is of particular interest to me, as Sabine refuge holds some of my favorite area's to fish. I would encourage all members of Contraband Fly Casters to attend.

In addition to showing up for the February meeting, we are asking that each member bring someone with them to the meeting this month, even if it is someone who is already a member. One of my primary objectives for 2007 is to renew interest and participation in the club, as it has been waning for some time now. I think we can do this by offering informative and interesting programs at meetings, having instructional elements such as fly tying and casting instruction at as many meetings as possible, and planning club outings that will result in as many members as possible catching fish.

Your input and assistance will not only be welcome, but will be vital to the success of Contraband Fly Casters, in 2007 and beyond.

Tight Lines,

Ron Begnaud

Sale at Uptown Angler in New Orleans

There is a sale at Uptown Angler in New Orleans on all flytying tools and materials. Sad to say, but this is a closeout sale on these materials. According to Alec Griffin, there just isn't enough profit margin for them to continue selling the fly tying materials and tools. They are doing this in an effort to keep the shop open. If you are interested you may wish to contact Alec at the shop:

Uptown Angler
601 Julia Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-529-3597
800-974-8473

Fly Fishing Events Coming Up Soon

The Little Mo Fly Fishing Festival starts Friday February 16 and goes through Sunday February 18 at the Community Center in Murfreesboro, AR. A little nearer to home, the 20th Acadiana Fly Rodders' Conclave will take place on February 24th at Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA from 8:30 am to approximately 3:00 pm. For further information, see

http://www.laflyfish.com/clubs/afr/AFR_Seminar_Brochure_07.pdf . On March 3rd the Redstick Fly Fishers' Redstick Day will be held from 8:30 am to approximately 4:00 pm at Waddill Outdoors Education Center, 4142 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge. For more details see <http://www.rsff.org/info/RSFF-coclave-leaflet-2007.pdf> . Both the AFR Conclave and Redstick Days are well worth attending, and admission is free for both. March 8-11 is the 28th Annual Louisiana Sportsmen's Show at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, LA. Thursday March 15th through Saturday March 17th is the 10th Anniversary Sowbug Roundup held at the Family Life Center of Redeemer Lutheran Church, 307 W. North St., Mountain Home, AR. Admission is \$5.00 for all three days. If you want to learn tying techniques this is the place to go - over 100 fly tyers you can watch while they tie and instruct. For more details please look at their website at <http://www.northarkansasflyfisher.org/Sowbug2.html> .

Fishing Reports

Most sane fishermen have stayed in during the majority of the rather inclement weather we've had, so fishing reports, both saltwater and freshwater are a bit rare. The cold then warm then cold temperatures have made any regular trends hard to discern as well. I've (referring to Mark Delaney) been going over my equipment, cleaning fly lines, lubricating (and repairing) fly reels, with a little bit of fly tying thrown in. I've even managed a few lawn casting sessions between rainstorms. But as far as fishing goes, most of the regular fisherman I know haven't managed to get a trip in yet this year. Sometimes during Mardi Gras break I manage to get a quick fresh or saltwater trip in, but once again it will be dependent upon the weather. I'm looking forward to a bit warmer and definitely more consistent weather. If you haven't figured it out, we are definitely above the normal rainfall levels for the year so far.



Retired Rio Exec Asking for Opinions on Needed Fly Lines

Retired Rio executive Jim Vincent (who still consults for Rio, now owned by Sage) is asking fly fishermen what their perceived needs for new types of fly lines are. If you have a suggestion for Jim, you can post on Dan Blanton's bulletin board at <http://www.danblanton/viewmessage.php?id=79216> . There are so many lines available these days, that it is easy to get lost, but if you have a suggestion, Jim will be glad to hear of it.

News from the Gulf Coast Council

Catch Cormier has been traveling lately and giving presentations about the GCC. The number of clubs that have officially joined the GCC is up to 14. It is entirely possible that the number of clubs committing to the GCC might total as high as 23. A reminder: Our first GCC Conclave & Expo is scheduled for May 18-20, 2007 at the Lake Charles Civic Center. The featured speakers are Lefty Kreh and Nick Curcione. If you are a fly tier you can help by tying some flies for a box to be auctioned off at the event. Every time I tie, I've been tying a few extra flies to fill up a box or two.

Remember to Renew Your Contraband Fly Casters Membership!!!

At the beginning of the year is the time for many of our members to renew their memberships. If it is time for you to renew, please fill out the membership form which can be found at either of the following two sites: <http://www.contrabandflycasters.com/registration.jpg> or at <http://cbfc0.tripod.com/index2.htm> . Follow the instructions and mail the form with a check for \$25 to Danny Williams at 2018 Plantation Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70605. Our joining the FFF as an affiliate club has not affected our club dues.



Freshwater Fly of the Month

Craft Store Soft Hackle



Hook: #10 Aberdeen
Tail: Center piece from end of pheasant plumage
Body: Peacock herl
Hackle: Guinea plumage
Rib: 28 gauge copper wire
Thread: Olive

Tying Instructions: All the materials for this fly can be found at most craft stores. Cut the tail out of the end of a pheasant plumage feather so the black tip and a bit of the brown feather show. Attach the thread to the hook, and wind to the bend of the hook. Tie in the tail. Then tie in the copper wire for the rib. Tie in 4-6 peacock herls and wind then around the tying thread to make a chenille. Wrap the chenille forward and tie it off leaving room for the head of the fly. Wrap the copper wire rib forward over the peacock chenille and tie off and trim any excess wire. Prepare the guinea plumage by stroking the feather fibers back, and then tie in the plumage by the tip of the feather. Wind the guinea plumage until an adequate hackle collar is formed. This hackle collar should be relatively sparse. Tie off the guinea plumage and trim any excess guinea plumage. Make a neat small head of tying thread and whip finish. Add head cement.

This rather simple soft hackle fly is quite effective for panfish. Tied in a smaller size (meaning correspondingly smaller feathers) it should also be effective for trout. No exotic or expensive materials, and all of these materials are available all over the country.



Saltwater Fly of the Month

Tin Liz



Hook: Size 1 bendback
Thread: Gray
Tail: Red wool
Body: Silver body braid
Wing: White marabou plumes, silver and pearl flash
Thread: Grey with red trim at back of head

Tying Instructions: This fly was originated by Liz Steel and this particular example was tied by Tom Bauman. First tie in a short tail of red wool, no more than 1/2 inch long. Next tie in silver braid for the body and wind it forward, tie off the braid and trim any excess. Tie in a vary full wing of lots of plumes of white marabou. Tie in silver flash (Krystal Flash or fine tinsel) on either side of the fly, to the tier's preference in amount. Finish the head with the grey tying thread and whip finish, and then add several trim wraps of red thread at the back of the head, finally whip finishing those. Add head cement.

As can be imagined, this fly with all the marabou has a lot of movement in the water, seeming to pulse with the slightest bit of water movement. The fly is also easily transformed with other colors of marabou



Calendar

- Feb 16-18 Little Mo Fly Fishing Festival, Community Center, Murfreesboro, AR
- Feb 20 Mardi Gras, all day, Everywhere in Louisiana
- Feb 20 NL FF Mtg?, 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
- Feb 22 NOFF Mtg., 7:30 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 141 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA
- Feb 24 AFR Conclave, 8:30 am -3:30 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
- Feb 26 RSF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
- Feb 26 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
- Feb 27 CFC Mtg., 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room 203, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA
- Mar 3 RSFF Red Stick Day, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Waddill Outdoors Education Center, 4142 N. Flannery Road, Baton Rouge, LA
- Mar 6 AFR Mtg., 6 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
- March 8-11 Louisiana Sportsman's Show Th, F, 2-9 pm Sat 10 am-9 pm, Sun 10 am-6 pm, Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, LA
- Mar 12 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
- Mar 15-17 Sowbug Roundup, 9 am - 4 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church Family Life Center, 307 W. North St., Mountain Home, AR
- Mar 16-18 LDWF Outdoors Woman weekend, Camp Grant Walker, Pollack, LA
- Mar 17 Paddlepalooza IV, paddlecraft fishing tournament, Leeville, LA

Officers

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