

# February 2008

# Contraband

## Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

**February Meeting: Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Room 200 of Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. Fly Tying Session 6:00 pm. Meeting 7:00 pm**

### Vice President's Message

The results of our elections from the January meeting are: President: Ron Begnaud, Vice President: Mark Delaney, Treasurer: Danny Williams. In other words, all the officers from 2007 are returning to their same positions as last year.

We may have to re-schedule or re-think our fishing outing at Sam Houston Jones State Park this month. Apparently they are going to drain the ponds again, this time to put some boardwalk-type structures in place over the water. I will check on the time table for this project to see what we may need to consider.

I will also have a report on potential conservation projects that the club may consider proposing to the GCC-FFF (if things slow down just a little bit at work!!).

The GCC-FFF Conclave page at <http://www.gulfcoast.org/index.php?page=Expo-2008> is starting to get some more information on it. Currently most of the information is about hotels, RV parks, (not too much interest for the Lake Charles area residents like us) and a list of the demonstration tyers. Look for more information to be put up on the site as it is gathered and developed soon. Mark your calendars...the Expo will be May 16-17, 2008 at the Lake Charles.

One part of this that I may need a little help depending on how many students sign up is a workshop that I'm teaching. That workshop is Fly Tying 101, a class for beginning fly tyers (who might not have ever even seen a vise before). The class will be taught in the afternoon on Friday May 16, 2008. The exact time has not yet been determined. Any volunteers?

Mark Delaney

### This Month's Demonstration of Fly tying Techniques

This month at the 6:00 pm fly tying session Fred Hannie will be demonstrating how to tie the sili-shad. An important skill to be learned here is how to handle siliskin, which can be a bit tricky to handle the first few times. Next month (March) Mark Delaney will demonstrate a dubbing technique known as "rope dubbing" which allows for dubbing of many non-traditional materials and can result in some quite neat flies.

### Conclave Season!!

The late winter/early spring season is conclave season. First up is the Little Mo Fly Fest at the Community Center in Murfreesboro, AR on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. For more details see <http://littlemissourifyfishing.com/ff-festival.html>

The Fourth Annual Louisiana Coastal Conservation Convention is at the Hilton Inn on Pinhook Rd. in Lafayette, LA from February 29 through March 1. For more information check the Louisiana CCA website at <http://www.ccalouisiana.com>.

On March 6-9 the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisiana Sportsmen's Show will be held at the Lamar Dixon Center in Gonzalez, LA.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> there will be two events. One is Fly Fish Texas at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, TX from 9am to 4 pm. The other is the Red Stick Fly Fishers' Red Stick Day at the Waddill Outdoors Education Center 4142 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, LA. This event will feature, Nick Curcione, Terry and Roxanne Wilson, and Pete Cooper, as well as many demonstration fly tyers, and other programs.

The Sowbug Roundup fly tying event will be on March 13-15<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 4 pm at the Redeemer Lutheran Family Life Center, 307 north Street, Mountain Home, AR.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> at Leesville/Grand Isle the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Paddlepalooze Kayak fishing Tournament sponsored by Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club will be held. For rules and registration see <http://www.bkfc.org>.

On March 27-30 the Southern Sportsman's Expo will be held at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, LA, For more information see <http://www.sprtsmans-expos.com>. For those willing to go farther afield, the FFF National Expo will be held March 28-30 in at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, FL. This show will feature Lefty Kreh, Diana Rudolph, Bruce Richards, Jon Cave, Nick Curcione, Dave Whitlock, Oscar Felieu, and others.

April 5<sup>th</sup> brings the rescheduled Acadiana Fly Rodders Conclave at Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

April 11-13<sup>th</sup> will be the D'Arbonne Rendezvous at Lake D'Arbonne State Park near Farmville, LA. This event is sponsored by the Ouachita Fly Fishers of West Monroe, LA.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman will be held at Camp Grant Walker near Pollack, LA From April 18 through April 20<sup>th</sup>. For details please see <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/education/becominganoutdoorswoman/>.

The Smallmouth Rendezvous will be May 2-3<sup>rd</sup> at the Tahlequah Community Building, 300 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Tahlequah, OK. This event will feature Dave and Emily Whitlock, Fox Satler, and Terry and Roxanne Wilson. For more information check <http://www.oksmallmouthbass.com>.

May 16 - 17<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gulf Coast Council Expo at the Lake Charles Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, LA. For more information see <http://www.gulfcoast.org/index.php?page=Expo-2008>.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Council Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave will be May 29 - 31<sup>st</sup> at Callaway Gardens, GA.

If you managed to attend all of these, you'd have yourself a very busy spring!!

### Donations for GCC Expo Solicited

Believe it or not it's that time again. Our May 16 and 2008 conclave will be upon us before we know it. Again it will be at the Convention Center in Lake Charles, LA. Please make your plans to be there.

I am chairing Auctions/Raffles again this year, ably assisted by Robert Peet of Jackson, MS. Last year we enjoyed spectacular success with our A/R program primarily due to the willingness of our Council members to offer their donations and support to the project. Without your help little can be accomplished; with your help, I think we saw how very successful our conclave and council can be. We raised about \$14,000 last year for the GCCFFF; and, with sustained effort, we can surpass that figure this year. But, it won't happen without due diligence from all our clubs and members.

Almost any item related to fly fishing and the outdoors will be appropriate. Boxes of flies are always popular and sporting related art work is VERY welcomed. Please be inventive, and please be generous once again.

Also, we would appreciate knowing what items the membership would especially like us to make available for A/R at the conclave. All suggestions should be directed to

me or Robert at the addresses below. We will have a budget for items we can purchase, so the most requested items will get the most attention. Of course, we'll also have some surprises!

For those who are contributing, please contact us as soon as possible detailing the nature of the contribution, so we can set it up into raffles or auctions. We also need to arrange delivery of the items. Should you be coming to the conclave, which we certainly hope is the case, you can deliver items directly to me or Robert as we will be there from Thursday, May 15 on. If you cannot attend, items can be sent to me at the address below, and I will send you a receipt of acceptance detailing all that has been received. Remember it's tax deductible.

Thanks for your help. Let's make this an even more successful conclave!

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### Fishing Reports

The warm/cold/warm/cold cycles aren't apparently just confusing humans...the fish don't know what to do either. I've heard good reports of reds and specks, followed by bad reports...seeming to cycle with the weather. A few days of warmer weather in a row could see you have great luck, but if a cold front blows through you can expect things to more or less shut down for a bit. Freshwater reports are if anything worse than the saltwater. This time of year it will pay to an eye on those weather reports. I, for one can't wait until we can get a bit of consistent spring like weather. Hopefully that will lead to some better fishing.



## Freshwater Fly of the Month

### Warden's Worry



**HOOK:** Mustad 9575 #8

**THREAD:** black uni 8/0

**TAG:** flat silver tinsel, #16 (also tied with gold tinsel)

**TAIL:** narrow strip of red duck wing quill, long

**RIB:** medium oval gold tinsel

**BODY:** yellow dubbing, wool or chenille

**HACKLE:** Yellow hackle palmered over body

**WING:** black bucktail topped with yellow bucktail

**CHEEK:** jungle cock nail or barred wood duck feather

**THROAT:** yellow hen hackle fibers

**HEAD:** black thread

**EYES:** red pupil painted on white background

This is one of the patterns Tom Nixon included in some of the editions of his book "Fly Tying and Fly Fishing for Bass and Panfish." It is by no means original with Tom, but is a classic New England streamer that has proved its worth on many species, including bass.

**Tying Instructions:** Attach the thread to the hook and wind to the bend of the hook. Tie in a tail of red duck wing quill. Attach some silver tinsel and wind the thread forward to where you wish the tinsel to stop. Wrap the tinsel around the hook shank until you reach the point where you wish the tinsel to end. Wrap the thread around the tinsel and trim any excess tinsel. Tie in a yellow saddle hackle and yellow chenille or wool yarn (or prepare yellow dubbing). Advance the thread to near the eye of the hook, but leaving enough room to tie in the wing and to make a nice thread head. Wrap the body material (chenille, yarn or dubbing) forward to create the body and wind the thread around it trimming any excess. Palmer the yellow saddle hackle forward and then tie off with the thread, trimming any excess body material. Add a throat of yellow hen hackle fibers. Tie in a wing of black bucktail topped with yellow bucktail. Tie in the cheeks of jungle cock nail or barred wood duck. Finish the fly by making a relatively prominent thread head, whip finishing and then painting red pupils on a white background for eyes on the black thread head.

The fly should be fished as any streamer would be. Experiment with speed of retrieve, pauses and twitches until the retrieve which triggers the fish bite is found.

## Saltwater Fly of the Month

### Hannie's Tube Shrimp



**3" tube**

**Thread:** mono thread

**Eyes :** mono

**Legs:** 14lb mono

**Tail:** swiss straw / epoxy

**Body:** ultra hair (shrimp) / epoxy

This fly is the creation of one of our members, Fred Hannie. Besides being a semi-realistic fly this fly is the first tube fly we've ever included in our patterns in our newsletter. Fred's instructions follow:

**Tying Instructions:** Tie on mono eyes 1/4 in from end of tube. Next tie on 8 mono legs below eyes extending past the tube 3/8 inch. After that, tie on two 3in pieces of mono (14lb) for antennae just in front of eyes, color in them with a brown permanent marker. At the rear of the tube 1/4 inch from the but, tie in 1/4 inch thick clump of ultra hair long enough to extend just past the tube. Make the tail pieces out of clear Swiss straw, 5 in all. Cut them in a tear drop shape and tie in where you tied off the ultra hair. Finally coat tail with epoxy and continue with epoxy over the ultra hair to form the body and head.

No reports yet on this fly's effectiveness, but it certainly looks very real, and it should fool some reds and specks, on would think!! We'll have to see how this pattern fares over the better fishing months.



## CALENDAR

- Feb 19 NLFF Meeting, 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA  
Feb 19 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room 200, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA  
Feb 21 NOFF Fly Tying 2, 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA  
Feb 23 CFC Cookout/fishing at Sam Houston Jones State Park, may be rescheduled due to pond drainage  
Feb 25 Red Stick Fly Fishers Fly Tying, 7 pm Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
Feb 25 ORFF Mtg., 6 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA  
Feb 28 NOFF Mtg., 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA  
  
Feb 22 NOFF Mtg., 7:30 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA  
Feb 24 AFR Conclave, Grace Presbyterian Church, 415 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA.  
Mar 8 RSFF Redstick Day, Waddill Outdoors Education Center, 4142 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, LA  
Feb 29-Mar 1 Louisiana CCA Convention, Hilton Inn, West Pinhook Rd., Lafayette, LA.  
Mar 4 AFR Mtg., 7 pm, 518 Grace Presbyterian Church. 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA  
Mar 6-9 Louisiana Sportsmen's Show, Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, Gonzalez, LA  
Mar 8 Red Stick Day, Waddill Outdoors Ctr., 4142 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, LA  
Mar 8 Fly Fish Texas, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens, TX, 9 am - 4 pm

## Officers

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**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://www.contrabandflycasters.com>

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