

January 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

January 2006 Meeting: Tuesday January 17, 2006, Room 227, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. 6:00 pm Flytying, 7:00 pm Meeting. Speaker: Patrick Millham of the Gulf Restoration Network speaking on opposition to open-rack LNG plants

President's Message

Our first meeting of 2006 has several important things happening. The first is, that is election time again. Happens every January. All positions are open, even though we have kept our officers the same for a couple of years. This year, however, we will need a new vice president, since Ty Southerland, our current vice president is moving out of the area. We also have not had a secretary for several years, with those duties being split between our treasurer, Danny Williams, and myself. It would be nice to have a full slate of officers this year...

We will also try to get some planning done for what we want to achieve in 2006 as a club. Do we want a conclave? A particular speaker? Do we wish to organize a trip? Or just a local fishing day?

I, like many of you I suspect, was glad to see 2005 go: Hurricanes, deaths of friends and colleagues and sheer overwork weighed heavily on me. It didn't help that for seven of the last nine weeks, I couldn't wear a prosthetic leg and was confined to my wheel chair (no fishing, and way too much work). I am looking to a much better 2006.

Our January speaker will be Patrick Millham of the Gulf Restoration Network. He will be speaking on what can be done to oppose the Shell LNG system, which was permitted with an open-rack system, which can use up to 2 million gallons of

gulf water per day, killing almost all of the life in the water it takes in. The permitting process for LNG plants has been temporarily suspended, but Shell has a valid permit, and can start building essentially any time they want. There might still be a chance to get them to change their design. I'm wondering if Rita managed to make them reconsider some of their design as well...

You can send a e-mail letter to Shell through the Gulf Restoration Network website at

http://www.democracyinaction.org/GRN/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=1720

See you at this month's meeting!! I'm hoping for a good turnout for planning a successful year!

Mark Delaney

Slowly Recovering from Rita

Around Lake Charles, evidence of the recovery from Rita is everywhere...fewer blue roofs, debris disappearing, stores reopening and store hours becoming more normal. There is still plenty of evidence of Rita's damage as well...lots of signs destroyed, some businesses destroyed, some never to reopen. At McNeese Drew Hall (engineering), Frazar Library and Gayle Hall (agriculture and family & consumer science) remain closed. They are currently working on Drew Hall and Frazar Library, but they have not yet

started on Gayle Hall. Gayle Hall is scheduled to reopen in the fall of 2006, which is why we will be meeting in Kirkman Hall. The damage from Rita on the second floor of Kirkman Hall, will be apparent. In the halls and some of the rooms (including my office) all the ceiling tiles had to be removed due to mold. So when walking done the halls on the second floor, be prepared to see lots of the HVAC system and computer cables overhead. The mandatory evacuation order for lower Cameron parish has finally been lifted. They local government had kept in place to try to keep residents out the way while things were getting cleaned up. The problem was that not much was happening. Somehow I think that things will speed up, now that some of the locals will be able to do some of the work on their own property. There is still a curfew in effect in lower Cameron parish from 6 pm to 6 am. Sabine, Cameron Prairie, and Lacassine refuges remain closed, with no dates given as to when they might reopen. At this time of year, they are closed to fishing anyway, but I wouldn't bet on those March opening dates that are usually given. There was a lot of junk blown into the marshes, not all of it debris from housing, buildings and boats...there are drums of various materials, and who knows what else out there that could be potentially disastrous. My favorite place to run away to for an hour or two of bream fishing, Sam Houston Jones State Park also remains closed. There are lots of downed trees, damaged sewage plants, damaged nature paths, damaged cabins, etc. that need attention. They have also drawn the ponds down substantially, since there was saltwater intrusion due to surge up the river from Rita. They paln on restocking the ponds. They do claim that there was not a major fish kill, though. A word of warning, however. The last time they drew down the ponds, they said they were going to restock, and never did. That made the recovery 4-5 years long. The good news is that bream, crappie, bass, and gar, the major fish species in the ponds are relatively tolerant of salt.

The bad news is that they usually utilize rain to refill the ponds. We haven't had much of that lately. They are hoping to reopen Sam Houston Jones sometime in March. All the boat launches in Calcasieu Parish are open and all waterways are open. In Cameron Parish, I believe Hebert's Marina may be open. I do not know about the boat launches in Hackberry. And of course, all the boat launches in the Sabine Refuge are closed. After all that, I still am hearing of good catches in Calcasieu Lake, Prien Lake and occasionally from Lake Charles itself. I haven't heard much about freshwater fishing, but that is normal for this time

of year. I sold my little 10 foot flat bottom boat to my landlord in late August. He wanted it to gig flounder from at his camp on Calcasieu Lake. He tied it to a tree in the yard. It may still be tied to the tree, but the tree is long gone, as is his camp, unfortunately. So I am currently boatless. I'm thinking of getting a small canoe, but that'll be a while. It looks like my best bet is to grab the fly rod out of my lab and put a few casts into the Contraband Bayou behind Kirkman Hall. I don't expect much, but I've been surprised before.

Things to Look for on the Web

The second edition of the online Hatches Magazine is now available at <http://www.hatchesmagazine.com>. This magazine is a project of the sister sites <http://www.flytyingforum.com>, <http://www.rodbuildingforum.com>, and <http://www.talkflyfishing.com>. They had originally wanted to publish every three months, but it has been six. There new plans are to publish monthly, and they claim to be working on the March issue already. The magazine is quite well written. It contains 16 articles on various topics such as trout fishing in Patagonian Chilean Andes, realistic legs on flies, the Mickey Finn, a second part of a rod building primer, adult mayfly identification, a jointed hex nymph pattern, a mousetrap rod winder, an article about the observations of a new tyer, fishing for Muskegon River spring steelhead, the Canadian Catskills Coffin Fly pattern, the first fly caught fish by a new fly angler, the dangers of cold weather angling and how to avoid them, a woman's perspective of fly fishing, a review of the video "Trout Bum Diaries", and the Tube Perch pattern.

Another thing to watch out for this month will be at the Fly Tying Forum, <http://flytyingforum.com>. This month, relatively soon, there will be pictures of the flies entered in the various categories of their annual fly tying contest. The winners in the various categories are determined by voting by the forum members. To vote, you must join and become a member. There will be some great flies there, guaranteed.

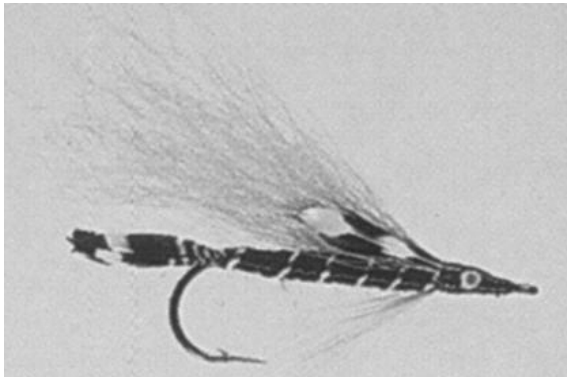
Red Stick Day

Red Stick Day, the conclave of the Red Stick Fly Fishers of Baton Rouge will be held Saturday March 4, 2006 at Waddill Education Center, 4145 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, LA from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The conclave is free, with complimentary

drinks all day. Lunch can be had for \$5. The featured speakers are Craig and Jackie Mathews, owners of the Blue Ribbon Fly Shop in Yellowstone, Montana. They will give two talks in the Skeet Building, and Zee Zeringue will give a talk on Terrebonne redbfish. Times for the talks are 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. Supplemental meeting will be taking place at the west pond pavilion. In the morning "Basic Fly Casting" and "Knots and Leaders" will be offered. In the afternoon, "Basic Fly Casting" and "Techniques for Bream" will be offered. In the Education Center, there will be at least 14 demo tyers, along with various auctions. For more information go to <http://www.rsff.org>.

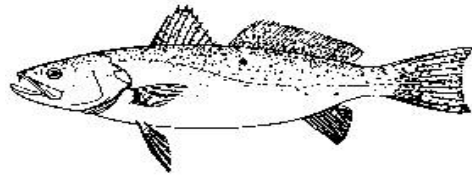
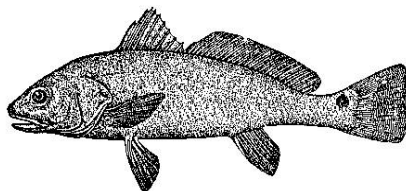
Freshwater Fly of the Month

Zeeke



Tail: Black and white guinea feather fibers or black and white barred wood duck side feather fibers
Body: Black floss ribbed with silver tinsel
Wing: Gray calftail or bucktail
Shoulder: Imitation jungle cock or a cheek of teal side feathers
Throat: Small bunch of yellow hackle fibers
Hook: #1 to 4
Eyes: Painted, yellow or white with black pupil

This steamer is yet another Tom Nixon bass pattern. It has proven its effectiveness and is still relatively popular.



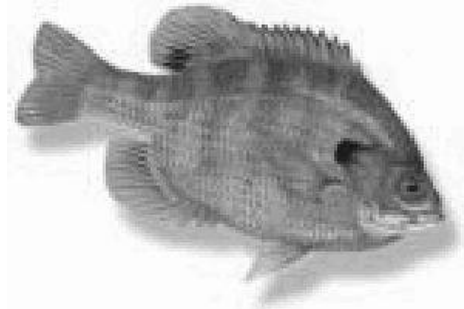
Saltwater Fly of the Month

Red-Rum



Hook: Standard saltwater
Thread: Orange
Eyes: Glass eyes
Body: Salmon/orange cactus chenille
Hackle: Orange saddle hackle wound in front of eyes
Tail: Orange saddle hackle tips or marabou with a few strands of krystal flash

Attach glass eyes to hook. Tie in tail and then cactus chenille. Wind the cactus chenille forward to form body. Wind hackle just in front of the eyes, finish off with medium sized thread head.



Calendar

Jan 17 CFC meeting, Rm 227 Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA, Speaker: Patrick Millham, 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting
Jan 19 PBFF Fly Tying, 1845 Causeway Blvd., Covington, LA, 7 pm
Jan 23 RSFF Fly Tying, Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 7 pm
Jan 23 ORFF meeting, Monroe, LA, 7 pm
Jan 26 NOFF Fly Tying, Whitney Bank Bldg., 141 Metairie Blvd., Metairie, LA, 7:30 pm
Feb 1 PBFF meeting, Louisiana Food & Spirits on Lee Lane, Covington, LA, 7 pm
Feb 6 ORFF Fly Tying, Monroe, LA, 7 pm
Feb 7 AFR meeting, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA, 6 pm
Feb 13 RSFF meeting, Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 7 pm
Feb 14 CFC meeting, Rm 227 Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA,, 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting

Officers

President: Mark Delaney, 337/475-5956 (Off.), 337 / 477 - 3845 (H o m e) , chemprof2001@yahoo.com

Vice President: Ty Southerland, 337/474-4344, tysoutherland@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Danny Williams, 337/479-4077, dwilliam@lwcpafirm.com

Club e-mail address:

contrabandflycasters@yahoo.com , messages will come from "Jean Lafitte"

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