

July 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

July Meeting: July 18, 2006 in Room 202 of Kirkman Hall on the McNeese Campus, Lake Charles, LA. Flytying 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm

President's Message

The big news since our last meeting of course has been the Citgo oil spill of waste oil from their facility on Prien Lake. This actually occurred the day before our previous meeting, but really hadn't been announced. Of course this has resulted in closures of the ship channel and for a period of time all of the Calcaiseu estuary, then Prien Lake south of I-210 to the Intracoastal waterway. Recently the entire ship channel has been reopened, but there are some restrictions. When traveling the ship channel through the "Safety Zone" in the ship channel boats must proceed at no-wake speed, and may not stop, and fishing and crabbing are prohibited. For more information about exactly where the "Safety Zone" is on the day you plan to fish, contact the Coast Guard on channel 16 or call 337/491-7800. The long term effects of the spill will of course only be determined by time.

On the LNG plant front...no news is good news, at least for the moment. No more open-loop offshore LNG plants have been successful in obtaining permits, so the Shell LNG offshore LNG plant is the only open-loop facility approved for construction in the Gulf of Mexico. It looks like the governors of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi are going to keep their promises to veto any proposed open-loop plants.'

There is news on the proposed Federation of Fly

Fishers Gulf Coast sub-council, so please read the article within.

Mark Delaney

Article by Alec Griffin of Uptown Angler

Alec Griffin of Uptown Anglers has an article in the August/September issue of Saltwater Fly Fishing. The article is entitled "Fly Fishing in the Eye of a Storm" and addresses how Alec worked to get Uptown Angler back into business after Hurricane Katrina, and his observations of the effects on his customers. Give it a read...it's well written and interesting.

Lake Charles CCA Trout Shoot-Out

The 21st Annual Lake Charles CCA Trout Shoot-Out will be held Saturday July 15, 2006. To fish the tournament you need to be a CCA member and register (\$25 per adult entrant). Kids 15 and under fish free if accompanied by an adult entrant. The weigh in is at Calcasieu Point Landing from (9:00 am to 3:00 pm). To encourage catch and release, all trout weighed alive at the official scales and returned to the water will receive a bonus of 8 ounces added to their weight. The prizes are for the largest speckled trout only (you only weigh in your largest fish). In the Adult Division there are 10 places with 1st place being \$5,000. There are 40 places in the Youth Division with the first prize being a \$2,000 Educational IRA. Businesses at

which registration is possible include Cajun Fast Mart, Calcasieu Point Landing, Cormies, Lake Charles Tackle, West Marine, and all First Federal Bank branches. Good luck everyone!!

Organizational Meeting for FFF Gulf Coast sub-Council

The first organizational meeting for the Federation of Fly Fishers Gulf Coast sub-Council is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 5, 2006. It might be held in Room 201 of Kirkman Hall from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Other possibilities are at the Southwest Louisiana Fishing club or at one of the meeting halls in Prien Lake Park. The meeting will have representatives from fly fishing clubs along the Gulf Coast from Alabama through Texas. As more details become available, they will be posted on <http://cbfc0.tripod.com>. I hope we will a good representation from our club...I'll be there but any other members would also be welcome. I expect discussions will include structure of the sub-Council, possible locations and dates for a Gulf Coast conclave, etc.

Fishing Reports

Ron Foreman took me out in his center console boat on Calcasieu Lake on July 3rd. All I can really say is that we didn't do too well, even though we got an early start. To tell the truth I've never seen so few fish marked by the depth finder on any trip to Calcasieu Lake before. Since then I've seen reports of the fishing beginning to pick up again, both in the lake and the marsh...not great yet, but getting better.

I'm still not hearing much about freshwater at all...in fact I've gotten no reports on freshwater fishing in about 4 weeks. No doubt about it it's been slow. I've been meaning to make a quick freshwater trip but haven't managed to get away from work long enough to do so...hopefully after summer school ends I'll be able to do so (only 8 more days...)

Grand Isle Surf Weekend

This weekend (July 14-16) is the annual Grand Isle surf trip at the Blue Dolphin Inn on Grand Isle. Members of quite a few different fly clubs attend this function.

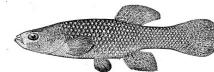


Marks' Rules of Fly Casting

1. If you are a right handed casters a non-flyfisher who wants to closely observe you will always approach you and stand behind your right shoulder. When you stop casting they will then ask why you stopped fishing. The reverse of course is true for left handed casters.
2. The bigger hurry you are to cast to a fish, the worse your cast will be.
3. The longer your cast needs to be when you are in a hurry, the worse it will get.
4. Trees, grass and brush eat more flies than fish do.
5. Some of the worst casts that will ever be made will still catch fish.

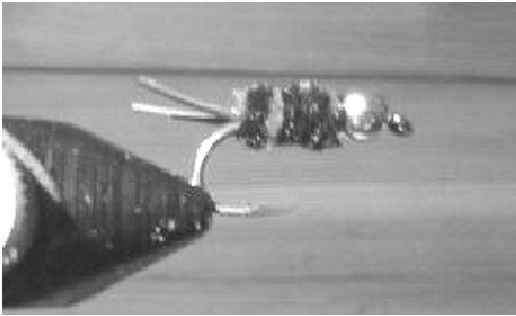
Solutions to Problems with Casting:

1. Different fly rods load at different speeds. When you are having trouble casting, turn sideways so you can look at your backcast, and see if you are not waiting long enough or waiting too long (fly hitting the water or land behind you)...let the rod load! Let the rod do its work!!!
2. If your fly is making a lot of noise hitting the water, chances are you are aiming at the point you want your fly to land. Aim 8 to 10 feet above that point and let the fly line and fly drop to the point.
3. Large and wind-resistant flies require a more open loop...the cast won't be very pretty, but it'll get the job done. Otherwise you'll end up hitting the back of your head a lot.
4. If you are getting waves in the line when you cast...your trying to muscle your cast...that just won't work...once again you are not letting the rod load and unload properly...let the rod do its work!!!
5. Practice makes perfect...practice with each of your fly rods until you get a good feel for them and can cast them confidently. You can practice in your yard or on the water, but practice!! However, if your casts keep getting worse and worse, it's time to quit. You are most likely tired. When you are tired, you practice *bad* habits and you don't want to incorporate bad habits.



Freshwater Fly of the Month

Randy Leonpacher's Jitterbee



Hook: Eagle Claw Baitholder #080 in size 8 or 10. The Eagle Claw 181 baitholder hook found at K-Mart can be used as a substitute. Both are 2X heavy and have large eyes suitable for the large metal bead.

Head: 4mm 10K gold plated metal bead (I prefer the Halcraft brand found at hobby stores).

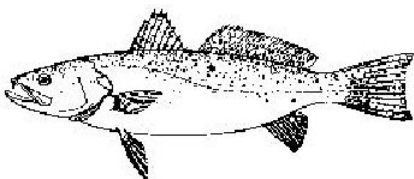
Body: Medium chenille or fine chenille (vernille) in black, red, burnt orange, or chartreuse. The medium is right for the size 8 hook, the fine is perfect for the size 10 hook.

Tail: Black silicon rubber skirt material (used for spinner baits).

Tying Instructions:

- 1) Smash the hook shank barbs on the baitholder hook and straighten offset.
- 2) Bend the hook point enough to slide the bead on, then bend back to original position
- 3) Wrap hook shank with thread and tie short piece of silicon rubber leg -- about 1/3 of a single strand. Double over short piece to make a forked tail. Secure with thread.
- 4) Pair up and tie in one color chenille with another color. Secure them with thread back to the v-tail. Contrasting colors always work best, such as black/chartreuse or black/orange.
- 5) Wrap paired chenille forward around hook to form banded colors.
- 6) Secure chenille by tying in just behind bead head.
- 7) Add head cements to wraps.

The fly can also be tied with gold-headed microjigs instead of the bait holder hooks. It is often fished under a VOSI.



Saltwater Fly of the Month

Left Over Shrimp



Hook: Mustad 3407 #6-2/0

Thread: White

Tail(mouth parts): White under Natural Deer Hair

Eyes: Melted Mono Colored Black With Sharpie

Hackle: White Marabou Under Brown Saddle

Rib: Clear Mono

Body: Crystal Ice Chenille

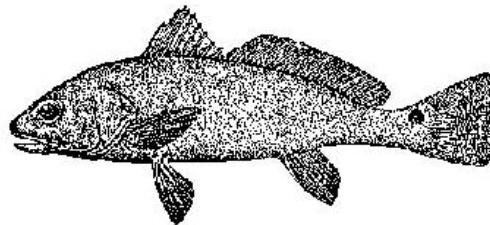
Carapace: Clear Plastic Bag Material (cut to shape)

Head: Thread

Tying Instructions:

- 1) Start thread at hook bend.
- 2) Tie in white bucktail (length of hook shank).
- 3) Tie in natural bucktail a little longer than the white.
- 4) Tie in small clump of white marabou.
- 5) Tie in and make 3 wraps of hackle.
- 6) Tie in eyes on both sides of hook. Add rib.
- 7) Tie in carapace.
- 8) Tie in and wrap chenille to just behind the hook eye.
- 9) Fold carapace over. Reverse wrap ribbing about five wraps. Pick out any chenille that gets packed down under rib.
- 10) Add head cement

This fine looking shrimp pattern originated in the northeast US. This example was tied by a member to the FlyTyingForum who goes by Blueman89. It ought to translate well to fishing in the Gulf of Mexico or inshore.



Calendar

Jul 14-16 Grand Isle Surf Weekend, blue dolphin Inn, Grand Isle, LA, LA & MS fly fishing clubs

Jul 18 North Louisiana Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm Camp Forbing, LA

Jul 18 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA

Jul 20 Ponchartrain Basin Fly Fishers Fly Tying 7 pm Glass Menagerie, 1845 Causeway Blvd., Covington, LA

Jul 20 New Orleans Fly Fishers Fly Tying 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg., 141 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA

Jul 24 Red Stick Fly Fishers Fly Tying, 7 pm Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

Jul 24 Ouchita River Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA

Jul 25-29 International Federation of Fly Fishers, 41st Conclave, Bozeman, MT

Jul 27 New Orleans Fly Fishers Meeting 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA

Aug 1 AFR Meeting, 6:30 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA

Aug 2 Ponchartrain Basin Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm Louisiana Food & Spirits on Lee Lane, Covington, LA

Aug 5 Organizational meeting of FFF Gulf Coast sub-Council, 9 am-3 pm, Lake Charles, LA

Aug 7 ORFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA

Officers

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

Vice President: Ron Begnaud, 337/477-7584, redchaser@xspedius.net

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

Club e-mail address:

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

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