

July 2007

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

July Meeting of Contraband Fly Casters: Tuesday, July 17, 2007 in Room 204 of Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. Fly tying begins at 6:00 pm, with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm

Vice President's Message

Our leader, Ron Begnaud, recently had back surgery and will be out of action for at least fishing for about six weeks. I don't know if Ron will be able to make this month's meeting, but if not, here's wishing you a speedy recovery.

It is definitely summer...hot and muggy and entirely too much rain. If you've managed to get out fishing lately, I certainly envy you...my fishing has been limited to wishing I could go when it wasn't raining...and then when I was free it WAS raining. I was seriously considering trying to wet a line in the rather deep and substantial puddle in back yard for a while (fortunately now just a patch of mud).

The Gulf Coast Council of the FFF plans to petition for full council status at this summer's big FFF meeting in Livingston, Montana provided all the paperwork can be finished in time. Time will tell.

At the June meeting it was decided that the club should take advantage of a great deal on rod kits offered to FFF clubs and FFF affiliate clubs, and offer a rod building course. (The Contraband Fly Casters is an affiliate club of the FFF). See the story on the Rod Building Course in later in the newsletter.

There is also an unique offer for people wanting to become members of the FFF for the first time...only \$15 from July 1 to Dec 31, 2007. Members of affiliate clubs must have the president of the club sign their application certifying that they are members of the affiliate club (so this applies to our club).

The other big news is that the dates for next year's Gulf Coast Council Expo & Conclave have been set. The event will once again be held at the Lake Charles Civic Center. The dates for the conclave are Friday May 16, and Saturday, May 17, 2008. If there are enough workshops

scheduled, it is possible some may be offered on Thursday May, 15 2008. We had a great initial conclave this year, and next year's should be even better (since we've recognized some of the problems and are doing our best to solve them.)

Mark Delaney

Rod Building and Repair Class

At the June meeting it was decided to take advantage of the offer of the FFF to offer rod building kits to clubs holding rod building classes. Dates have not yet been set, but will be determined at the July 2007 Contraband Fly Casters meeting. A club can purchase up to 12 fly rod kits. Currently seven kits have been spoken for, leaving five available. It was also decided that rod repair techniques would also be covered, since the methods between rod building and repair are quite similar. The fly rod blanks are reported to be Redington blanks (the series was not in the information released). We anticipate that the class will be taught by a combination of people experienced in rod building (Jim Gill, Fred Hannie, and Mark Delaney), so you'll probably learn at least two ways to tackle any problem you'll encounter. The rod kits come with reel seat, handle, two stripper guides, the appropriate number of snake guide, hook keeper, and tiptop. The only exception to that is the two spey blanks available, which only the rod blank is included (meaning if you want to build a spey rod, you'll have to buy your hardware elsewhere). Cost for the rod kits/blanks will be \$13.00 each, which also covers shipping. Participants in the rod building class will have to order or purchase their own rod winding thread to attach the guides to the blank. Rod winding thread is available in limited colors in Lake

Charles at Academy sports, and available on the internet in a myriad of colors. Rod finish (for coating the rod windings) also available at Academy Sports or on the internet. Available blanks are (one blank per person, please):

3 pc 96" 3 wt
3 pc 84" 3 wt
3 pc 90" 3 wt
2 pc 102" 7-8 wt
3 pc 102" 4 wt
3 pc 108" 4 wt
2 pc 102" 5 wt
2 pc 108" 5-6 wt
2 pc 120" 6-7 wt
2 pc 90" 4 wt
2 pc 84" 3 wt
3 pc 108" 7 wt
4 pc 108" 7-8 wt
2 pc 114" 7-8 wt
3 pc 78" 8 wt
4 pc 108" 8-9 wt
2 pc 120" 8-9 wt
4 pc 108" 10 wt
4 pc 108" 10-12 wt
4 pc 108" 14 wt
3 pc 180" 10 wt (spey blank)
3 pc 168" 9 wt (spey blank)

Those wishing to participate in the rod building class should make their rod choice known, and send payment to Mark Delaney, 316 LaGrange St. Lake Charles, LA 70605-1508 (chemprof2001@yahoo.com) to be received by Friday, July 27, 2008.

New FFF Member Promotion

As you are probably aware, the Contraband Fly Casters club is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Here is a great opportunity to become an FFF member, if you are not already a member (and sorry guys, this deal is only for brand new members and not renewals).

This membership promotion runs July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. In order to increase our members to support the Federation's growing Conservation and Educational programs this membership promotion has been instituted.

So, here is a great opportunity for those individuals to become Federators. From July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 club members may join the Federation at the special discounted price of \$15.00 for a regular one year individual membership.

- These will qualify for credits towards Rod New Member Incentive Program during this promotion period.
- Membership form must be signed by the club president to certify that the applicant is a member of the affiliate club
- This is not for FFF membership renewals

FFF Life Member Promotion

Beginning July 1, 2007 until December 31, 2007 we will

also have a life membership promotion. At a price of \$750 it will include for a new member, choice of a Sage 590-4 Z-AXIS Series Rod in 5 wt OR a Sage 890-4 XIZ 8 wt. Thus the new member gets a package valued at approximately \$1150.00 for his \$750.00 investment.

Note: Life payment plans do not qualify for this promotion.

CFC Index of Fly Patterns

Every once in a while I need to make an index of fly patterns that have appeared in the Contraband Fly Casters newsletter, so I can try to avoid duplicating patterns (I've only done that once, thus far). So here is the latest index. If you have a particular pattern you want to see, request that pattern by e-mailing Mark Delaney at chemprof2001@yahoo.com. Or even better if you've got a pattern to share with directions, send that to Mark. The "TN" designates that the pattern appeared in at least one edition of Tom Nixon's book "Fly Fishing and Fly Tying for Bass and Panfish."

1. 0.56%er (fresh) Jul 04 TN
2. Anchovy Bendback (salt) May 07
3. Arkansas Cajun Coachman (fresh) Dec 04 TN
4. Baby Shad (fresh) Apr 05
5. Beaded Damsel nymph (fresh) Apr 07
6. Beadhead Panfish Polecat (fresh) Jun 06
7. Blonde (salt) Jan 07
8. Brim Streamer (fresh) Jan 05
9. Brim Fly (fresh) Aug 04
10. Cahaba X (fresh) Nov 04
11. Calcasieu Pigboat (fresh) Feb 06 TN
12. Catalpa Worm (fresh) May 06
13. Chili Pepper (fresh) Jul 07
14. Coma Cockahoe (salt) Jun 06
15. CPB Streamer (fresh) Nov 05 TN
16. Crab Apple (John Morin's) (salt) Apr 06
17. Craft Store Softhackle (fresh) Feb 07
18. Craft store foam spider (fresh) Sep 05
19. Crawfish Impersonator (fresh) May 05
20. Crease Fly (alt) Aug 06
21. Deep Black (fresh) Jun 05 TN
22. Del's Merkin (salt) Jul 07
23. Dorsy's Kwan Fly (salt) Feb 06
24. Epoxy spearing (salt) May 05
25. Epoxy Shrimp (salt) Jun 05, May 06
26. Eric the Red (fresh) Feb 05 TN
27. Feather Shad (fresh) May 07
28. Feather Finger Mullet (salt) Oct 06
29. Fishscale Finish Balsa Poppers (fresh & salt) Apr 05
30. Floating Mullet (salt) Mar 05
31. Floating Spider (fresh) Jan 07
32. Foam-Backed Crawfish (fresh) Dec 06
33. Gill Getter (fresh) Jul 05 TN
34. Glass minnow (salt) Aug 05
35. Glass Shrimp (salt) Dec 06
36. Ironhead Chili Pepper (fresh) Jun 07
37. Jassid (fresh) Sep 04 TN
38. Jitterbee (fresh) Jul 06
39. Kirk's Spoon Fly (salt) Jun 04
40. Left Over Shrimp (salt) Jul 06
41. Lefty's Deceiver (salt) Oct 04
42. Mitey Mite (salt) Nov 06
43. Montana nymph (fresh) Aug 05
44. One Feather Fly (fresh) Aug 06
45. Pheasant Tail nymph (fresh) Sep 06

46. Pink Wonder (salt) Jun 07
47. Rattle Shrimp (salt) Sep 06
48. Rattle Rouser (salt) Apr 07
49. Red October (salt) Mar 06
50. Red-Rum (salt) Jan 06
51. Redfish Muddler (salt) Jan 05
52. Renegade (fresh) Oct 04
53. Serendipity (fresh) Apr 06
54. Shad Fry (fresh) Apr 05
55. Shwimp (salt) Sep 04
56. Soda Straw Shrimp (salt) Dec 04
57. Tin Liz (salt) Feb 07
58. Trout Candy (salt) Aug 04
59. V-worm (fresh) Mar 07
60. Verveka Baitfish (salt) Mar 07
61. White River Demon (fresh) Mar 05
62. Wideside (salt) Nov 04
63. Wiggle Bug (fresh) Nov 06
64. Wing-tailed Clouser (salt) Sep 05
65. Wobble Shrimp (Minnow) (salt) Feb 05
66. Yallered (fresh) Mar 06 TN
67. Zeeke (fresh) Oct 06 TN
68. Zulu (fresh) Oct 06 TN

Copies of past Contraband Fly Casters newsletters are available at <http://www.contrabandflycasters.com> and <http://www.geocities.com/contrabandflycasters/newslets.htm>.

Freshwater Fly of the Month

Chili Pepper



Hook: 3X or 4X long streamer hook, Eagle Claw shown here.

Thread: 6/0, Orange.

Bead: 5/32 or 1/8 brass bead.

Tail: Burnt Orange Marabou, Copper Krystal Flash.

Body: Copper Tinsel Chenille.

Hackle: Brown or root-beer brown or furnace or ginger saddle hackle

Tying Instructions: Place bead on hook, and hook in vise. Secure the bead in place with wraps of tying thread and then wrap the thread to the bend of the hook. Tie in a tail of burnt orange marabou, and two fibers of copper Krystal Flash on each side of the tail. Tie in the brown or root-beer brown furnace hackle, and then tie in the copper tinsel chenille. Advance the thread to just behind the bead. Wrap the copper tinsel chenille forward to form the body and wrap and tie off the copper tinsel chenille, trimming off any excess. Next, palmer the furnace hackle forward over the copper tinsel chenille body, tying off just behind the bead and trimming any excess saddle hackle. Create a collar of orange thread just behind the brass bead, and whip finish to tie off behind the bead. Add a touch of head cement to the windings.

This fly is a go-to fly for Tony Spezio on the White Rive and

Crooked Creek in Arkansas. But originally, it was given to Tony more or less as a joke because Tony told his friend Bob Root "I don't fish Woolly Buggers!" So Bob created a gaudy one for Tony. It sat in his box until one day on the White nothing seemed to be working. Tony reached for the last fly in the box, which he had told Bob resembled a chili pepper. Thirteen straight trout later, and the fourteenth got away due to a broken tippet. Tony was convinced.

The Chili Pepper has accounted for trout, large- and small mouth bass, all kinds of panfish, and upscaled, even redfish.

Saltwater Fly of the Month

Del's Merkin



Hook: Mustad 34007 or 7766, Size 1 or 2

Thread: Chartreuse or yellow

Tail: Webby saddle hackles and marabou

Body: Rug yarn (Aunt Lydia's or latch hook).

Legs: White rubber legs with red tips

Eyes: Dumbbell eyes

Tying Instructions: Tie at the eye of the hook then cover the hook shank with tying thread wrapping to the bend and then back to the eye of the hook. Tie on the dumbbell eyes using figure eight wraps. Wind the thread to the bend of the hook. Tie in some marabou for the tail, followed by a few strands of Krystal Flash of Flashabou. Select your hackles for the tail and tie them so that they splay using two to three feathers per side. Cut the desired yarn into 2" lengths (no need to do this with latch hook yarn). Colors of yarn are often alternated in Merkin bodies. The original pattern alternated brown and tan strands of yarn. To form the body tie in strands of yarn using figure eight wraps so the yarn stick out at 90° to the hook shaft. When the pieces of yarn reach the eye, it is time to whip finish. The next step is to trim the body to shape. This often done more easily if the yarn is pulled taut on each side while being trimmed. Once the body has been trimmed to satisfaction, it is time to add the legs. Thread a single fiber of rubber hackle material through the body and secure it around the hook shank with a single overhand knot. Traditionally this is done three to four times.

This fly was originally developed by Del Brown in pursuit of permit. The recipe above is more or less the traditional recipe. If you notice, no head cement or other cement is used. The reason was that foreign scents were being avoided since permit have a very acute sense of smell. If you are tying your merkins for redfish, you can firm up the body a bit by applying some Softex to the yarn body or Goop or E6000 thinned with toluene. This will make the fly more durable, but the fly will need to be aired out until the solvents completely evaporate (i.e. don't do this the night before you need the fly!!) The merkin really was the first fly to be very successful in tempting permit. Del Brown managed to land over 370 permit.

Calendar

Jul 13-15 Gand Isle Fly Fishing Weekend, Grand Isle, LA
Jul 17 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Jul 17 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room 204, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA
Jul 2 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Jul 26 NOFF Mtg., 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA
Jul 30 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
Aug 7 AFR Mtg., 7 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 415 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
Aug 11 RSFF Fly Fishing 101, 8 am - ?, Waddill Outdoors Education Center, 4145 N. Flannery Rd. Baton Rouge, LA
Aug 13 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Aug 21 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Jul 17 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room ???, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA

Officers

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