

June 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

June Meeting: Tuesday June 20, 2006 in Room 202, Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus, Lake Charles. Fly Tying 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm

President's Message

First off, I apologize for getting this newsletter out to you so late. I've been ill a few days and then have had to organize trips for a new professor we're looking to hire at McNeese, as well as trying to teach summer school. Something had to give, and unfortunately the newsletter was it. I had hoped to be able to get someone from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to talk at this month's meeting, but I wasn't able to arrange it, so we'll try for next month. The reason that would have been interesting is because of the new limits on speckled trout on the Calcasieu and Sabine estuaries, which you can read about in more detail in the next article. Other things that have happened since last month, is that Alabama's governor has vetoed an open loop LNG plant proposal. The company said it would come back with a closed loop proposal. But there is another LNG plant proposed off the Alabama coast and it is...you guessed it...open loop. I have the feeling this will be the process from now on, propose an open loop system (because "Shell got a permit for open loop, why can't we?" whining), they get vetoed and then they'll probably come back with a closed loop proposal. In other words, the permitting of the Shell open loop LNG plant set a horrible precedent, and to protect our marine resources will take constant vigilance of any conservation concerned groups...so keep your eyes peeled more these things!!

Congressman Bobby Jindal had proposed legislation in the House, called the "Secure Energy Investment Fund." The idea is that is to provide a more equitable sharing of the royalty revenues from offshore oil and gas to the states off whose coasts these materials are produced. The hope is a major chunk of this money would be earmarked for coastal restoration. And after last year, now everyone understands how important those marshes really are.

Volunteers are going to be needed on June 24th in Cameron and Calcasieu parishes from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm for the Marine Debris Marking and Mapping Project on Calcasieu Lake, Moss Lake and West Cove. Volunteers using their own boats will mark floating debris with buoys and submerged debris with PVC pipe. Such debris has been a hazard since hurricane Rita last fall. Small debris which can be removed by the volunteers will be. Larger debris will be reported and marked with the results posted at the Coast Pilot Disaster Impact Web site at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/cpgulf/cpgulf.htm> and at the Louisiana Sea Grant Web site at <http://www.laseagrant.org/debris>. Boaters are asked to report any dangerous debris to the site above when they encounter it, with the proper position. Registered volunteers will be treated to lunch and drinks courtesy of the Lake Charles Pilots. Volunteers are asked to meet at 8 a.m. at the Calcasieu Point Landing at 3955 Henry Pugh Blvd. in Lake Charles to register and pick up

supplies.

For more information, contact Tim Osborn at Tim.Osborn@noaa.gov or 337-291-1111; Justin Farrell at jfarrell@lsu.edu or 225-578-6348; or Paula Ouder at pouder@lsu.edu or 225-578-6451; or visit www.laseagrant.org/debris.

Mark Delaney

New Speckled Trout Limits for Calcasieu and Sabine Estuaries in Louisiana

There are new limits on speckled trout in the Calcasieu and Sabine estuaries. The new limits are 15 trout 12 inches or over with only two trout 25 inches or over. The exact wording from the Department of wildlife and Fisheries is shown below:

“BEGINNING JUNE 20, 2006 within the area described here, of the daily take and possession limit of 15 spotted seatrout, no person shall possess, regardless of where taken, more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches total length, which are considered part of the daily bag and possession limit. These regulations apply to the area of the state, including coastal territorial waters, south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas-Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, and then south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown south to Louisiana Highway 82 at Creole and south on Highway 82 to Oak Grove and then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea.”

Most anglers in the Lake Charles area think this is a good thing, especially since it was initiated by the local anglers. According to the standards the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries uses, there was still sufficient recruitment (enough fish maturing so they could spawn), but most local anglers have noted a decrease in the speckled trout fishery. The attitude of the anglers has been lets try to fix the problem now, before it becomes a huge problem. I've seen the recovery of the redfish stocks when Louisiana finally instituted some reasonable size limits, and that only took a couple of years. Lets hope this is just as effective and just as quick.

Fishing Reports

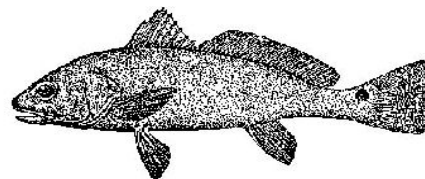
Saltwater reports continue to be hit or miss...Ron Begnaud reported finding some very shallow fish two weekends ago. Last weekend Ron Foreman and I took his 14 foot flatbottom out into some of the marsh west of Hackberry, where we managed to spook one very shallow red and spotted a black drum cruising the grass line, which we could not persuade to eat. We ended our evening trip casting to another red, but we couldn't persuade that one either. All the fish were cruising grass lines so shallow their backs were out of the water. I haven't heard much about freshwater at all of late. Lacassine had been the hot place, but without an influx of rain, it has been becoming harder and harder to fish. I have not yet heard many reports about fishing Calcasieu River. If you go fishing anywhere, please drop me a line at chemprof2001@yahoo.com and tell me what the fishing was like, good or bad. And no, you don't have to reveal your secret spot!!

2006 Tom Nixon Pattern Fly Swap

The 2006 Tom Nixon Pattern fly Swap was hosted by Kevin Payne of Kentucky. The swap features thirteen Tom Nixon patterns. The flies and the recipes for them may be found on the Contraband Fly Casters website (<http://cbfc0.tripod.com>) specifically at <http://cbfc0.tripod.com/tnix3.htm> .

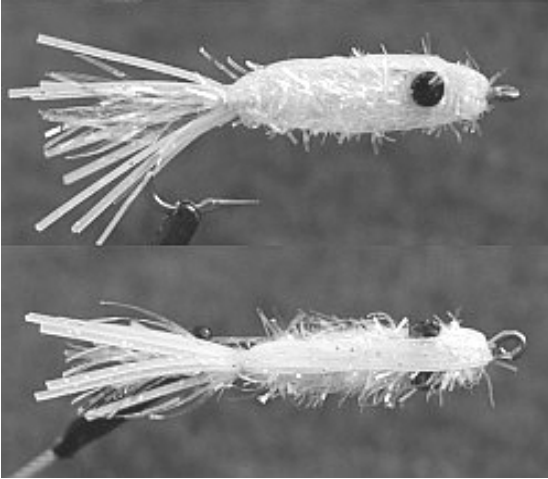
Cruising the Web

The Fly of the Week for the week of June 12, 2006 is on Fly Anglers Online (<http://www.flyanglersonline.com>) is a Boa Yarn Leach tied by Rick Zieger of Lamoni, IA. Rick is a friend of mine, and he swears by this rather simple fly for panfish...it's probably worth checking out. The June issue of the online magazine "Hatches," is out (<http://www.hatchesmagazine.com>) and as usual is very high in quality. I've added Dan Blanton's website (<http://www.danblanton.com>) to the links on the Contraband Fly Casters webpage as well as my own webpage since this is site of great use to saltwater anglers, containing a bulletin board, tackle and techniques pages, a hot flies page, a guide page across the US, etc.



Saltwater Fly of the Month

Coma Cockahoe



Hook: Mustad 34011, Size 1
Eyes: 1/50 oz lead eyes, painted
Body: Medium is or Estaz chenille
Tail & upper and lower edge of body: Sillilegs

This fly is an imitation of the popular cockahoe plastic minnow so often used for speckled trout. The fly was originated by Catch Cormier of Baton Rouge.

Tying instructions: Tie in eyes about 1/4" from eye of hook. Wrap thread toward bend of hook. Secure estaz, then wrap thread back to just in front of the eyes. Take estaz, and wrap it around the hook shank towards the eyes. Loop each wrap just in front of the previous wrap so that the fibers are pushed out. Make one wrap in front of eyes, then secure with one wrap of thread. Sillilegs usually come in segments with 1/4" solid at both ends and strips in the middle. Trim off one of the solid ends so the legs are "free". Tie in the other solid end just in front of eyes. After that, wrap the estaz over the secured piece of sillilegs, then tie off the estaz with a whip finish and cut thread. Divide the legs up into two even sections. Pull one section back over the top of the estaz, the other over the bottom of the estaz. Make sure to keep the legs clumped together. Next, tie in thread at the bend, just where the estaz begins, and secure the top and bottom sections of sillilegs to the hook. This will create a tail. Knot off the thread with a whip finish. Next, trim the tail back to about an inch. Finally, take a fine brush and apply a light coat of 30 minute (2 Ton) transparent epoxy to the sillilegs on top and below the body.

Freshwater Fly of the Month

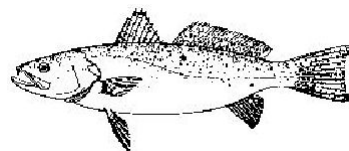
Beadhead Panfish Polecat



Hook: Mustad 9671, Size 12
Bead: Black Bead for weight
Tail: Yellow Marabou or Puglisi fibers
Body: Black chenille with underbody of yellow or chartreuse chenille pulled forward.
Legs: White rubber hackle, 4 per side
Thread: Black

This is a modification of a pattern by Tom Lentz found in Allen & Stewart's "Flies for Bass & Panfish," on page 76. The original pattern depends upon lead wire underneath the chenille for weight, while this one uses a metallic bead. This example was tied by Ron Braud.

Tying instructions: Place bead on hook and secure in place with tying thread. Advance the thread to just before the bend of the hook. Tie on the tail of marabou. Tie in piece of yellow or chartreuse chenille on the bottom of the hook and secure a piece of black chenille on the hook. Wind the thread to just behind the bead. Wrap the black chenille around the hook shank advancing it to just behind the bead. Tie off the black chenille and trim off excess. Return the thread to about the midpoint of the body. Tie in white rubber hackle for legs, 4 per side. Retrun the thread to just behind the bead. Pull the yellow or chartreuse chenille forward on the underside of the fly to make a yellow or chartreuse belly. Tie the yellow or chartreuse chenille off just behind the bead and trim off any excess. Tie off the thread behind the bead and add a drop of head cement to the wraps.



Calendar

Jun 15 Ponchartrain Basin Fly Fishers Fly Tying 7 pm Glass Menagerie, 1845 Causeway Blvd., Covington, LA

Jun 15 New Orleans Fly Fishers Fly Tying 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg., 141 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA

Jun 20 North Louisiana Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm Camp Forbing, LA

Jun 20 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tyng, 7 pm meeting Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA

June 26 Red Stick Fly Fishers Fly Tying 7 pm Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

June 26 Ouchita River Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA

June 29 New Orleans Fly Fishers Meeting 7:30 pm Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA

Jul 3 Ouchita River Fly Fishers Flytyng 7 pm 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA

Jul 4 Acadiana Fly Rodders Meeting 6 pm Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA

Jul 5 Ponchartrain Basin Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm Louisiana Food & Spirits on Lee Lane, Covington, LA

July 10 Red Stick Fly Fishers Meeting 7 pm Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

July 14-16 Grand Isle Surf Weekend, Blue Dolphin Inn, Grand Isle, LA & MS clubs

Officers

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