

March 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

March Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 in Room 202 of Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus, Lake Charles. Flytying 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm

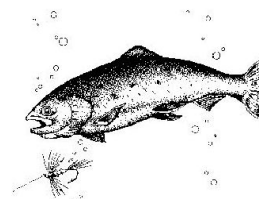
President's Message

I'm sorry to be getting this out a little bit later than usual, but work has had me swamped for the past couple of weeks.

One of our concerns over the past two years has been declining attendance at our meetings. We've tried to get a mix of speakers, on various topics. We've not always been successful in having a speaker though. To address our concerns, we will be doing a telephone poll, asking our members about what they expect and want from the club, how often we should meet, etc. Please, take the time to answer our questions, it will take less than five minutes of your time. Hopefully, we will be able to construct a club that is more responsive and interesting to the membership. Remember, it is **YOUR** club!! So the members should determine how it functions.

Lots of news on the LNG front of late. Basically, what I was afraid of, has happened. Since Shell got an approval for an open-loop permit, most of the other companies are trying to force open-loop (some just by what can only be explained by plain whining of "They got to do it!"). The prime example of this is Conoco-Phillips Dauphin Island project of the Alabama coast. The draft environmental impact statement for Conoco-Phillips Beacon Port project off the Texas/Louisiana coast has been published and is

a v a i l a b l e a t
<http://dmses.dot.gov/doc.images/pdf95/388368.web.pdf> . Be aware it is a very large file. Comments should be submitted by April 17. It is more important than ever to get the governors to stand up and veto any open-loop systems. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Marine Administration (MARAD) will be holding hearings on the proposed Freeport McMoRan Main Pass LNG project in Grand Bay, Al on March 21, Pascagoula, Ms on March 22 and New Orleans on March 23. Prior to each meeting from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm there will be an informational open house with the meetings scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The New Orleans meeting is scheduled to be held at the Hilton New Orleans on Poydras St. Starting on April 23 will be the public comment period, during which the governors have the option to veto the project. The Gumbo Alliance's court challenge to Shell's permit for an open-loop terminal has seen its first day in court at the U. S. Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit, with hopeful results. A ruling is expected in approximately two months. - Mark Delaney

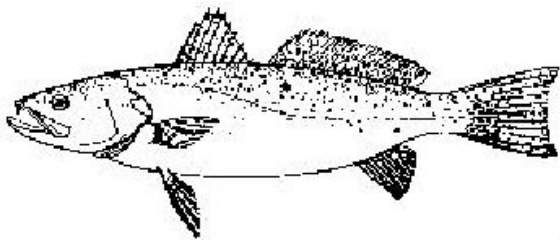


Fishing Reports

I caught up with Capt. Devin Palomino at Lake Charles tackle this past week while I was trying to scare up some fishing reports. He has been guiding near Grand Isle lately, and says that the marsh is looking good there and they are catching specks. I have heard spotty reports about people catching specks in Calcasieu Lake. Recently Ron Begnaud posted an online report saying that so far that they weren't seeing much in the local marshes yet. Devin said he also made a recent trip to Toledo Bend with some friends and fishing conventional tackle they caught good numbers of sac-au-lait. He also said the water at Toledo is beginning to come back up. Locally, I still haven't heard that much about freshwater fishing. Probably the one thing you can count on this month is wind. It will most likely be blowing one direction or another. If you get a calm day, you might want to take advantage of it.

Red Stick Day

Red Stick Day, the Red Stick Fly Fishers of Baton Rouge's yearly conclave went off seemingly without a hitch on March 4. I know at least three Contraband Fly Casters club members were present. I was a demo tyer and rode to the event with Ron Foreman. They have switched a few things around. The presentations are now at the Skeet Building in the Waddill while the demo tyers are still in the Education Building. This reportedly made hearing the talks much easier. There were two talks by Craig and Jackie Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies of West Yellowstone, MT and one talk given by Jerome ("Zee") Zerangue of Houma, LA on Terrebonne redfishing. There were also casting instruction and presentations by Larry Offner on bream techniques at the ponds outside. Also available at the ponds outside were various models of kayaks to try. Most of the TFO line of rods was also available for a trial at the event. The day finished up with the raffle. All I can say, is that if your first or last name started with a "W" you probably won multiple times. It was a full day.



Resources of Interest on the Web

An update of some resource of interest on the web is in order. A few weeks ago at Fly Anglers Online the featured fly was the Calcasieu Pigboat, with an article by Mike Birdsong of Idabel, OK.. Tom Nixon's signature pattern is still popular. The Fly Archives (where you'll find the link to the article) at this site are a good source of great patterns. The URL for the site is <http://flyangersonline.com>. Another good site to checkout is Dan Blanton's site (<http://www.danblanton.com>). An especially popular portion of this site is the Bulletin Board, where ideas are freely exchanged (<http://www.danblanton.com/bulletin.php>). Dan himself often chimes in with answers to questions. Dan may be best known for his series of Whistler flies. A good source of many fly patterns from many different fly tyers can be found at http://flytyingworld.com/flyindex_shtml. It isn't exactly from our area, but a "Guide to Aquatic Invertebrates of the Upper Midwest" is available through a University of Minnesota website for free. The chapters are in pdf format, and can be saved to your computer. If you are interested in entomology this is a hard deal to pass up. Don't speak the Latin stuff and still want to know what fly will represent that bug coming off the water that someone just told you about with the genus and species name? The site for you is <http://users.eastlink.ca/~dryflyhatchtax.htm>. This site matches the genus and species names with the common names of fly patterns. The March 2006 issue of Hatches appeared online on February 28. The URL is <http://www.hatchesmagazine.com/>. So far they've been keeping up their commitment for a free monthly online magazine and are currently working on a few more stories for the May issue. Each issue seems to be getting a little longer. Articles include "Dye Job," "Natural Dubbing," "Crocheted Crawdad," "Matching Feathers," "Rod Building Primer, part III," "Destination Margaree River," "AuSable River: A River of Diversity," "A Day on the Tribs," "Tying the Sparrow," "Fishing the Little Red," "The Kayak Advantage," "All Night Hex," "Fly Fish Radio Interview," "John Shewey Interview," and "The Rising Cost of Fly Tying." You should be aware that if you want to print all this out, you might want to invest in an ink company. I find a more reasonable way to save the issues is to convert the articles to pdf using a program such as CutePDF and then saving them on my computer and then writing them to a CD. I am currently participating in another Tom Nixon fly swap, but I'm not hosting it this time. Kevin Payne of Utica,

KY is hosting it. When the swap is over, the flies tied for the swap will be displayed on the Contraband Fly Casters website (<http://cbfc0.tripod.com>), with the permission of Kevin. At the moment our website has the largest number of Tom Nixon patterns online, and Kevin feels that this would be a good home for the swap.

Freshwater Fly of the Month

Yallered



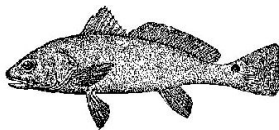
Hook: Aberdeen 1/0

Thread: Black

Tail: Red yarn or red hackle fibers

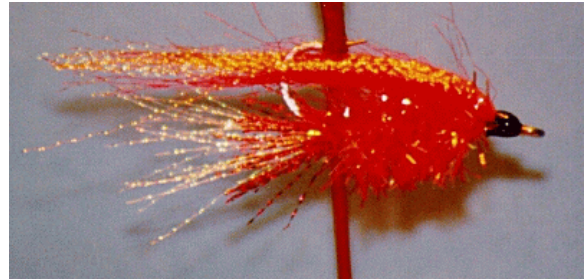
Body: Yellow chenille heavily palmered with yellow saddle hackles

This is the fly I tied for the Tom Nixon fly swap mentioned above. I chose this bass wet fly because it was a pattern I'd never tied before...or so I'd thought. But the more I tied for the swap I kept thinking, I've done this before, but where?? It took me quite a while before I came to the realization that this fly is really not much more than the venerable woolly worm on steroids. (Which was one of the first flies I tied when given my Thompson Model A vise as part of a going-away present when I left Dow Chemical Co. to come to McNeese in 1987.) The sink rate of the fly is determined by how heavily you palmer the fly with saddle hackles. All Tom says about it is that you may need "several." The example tied above uses two saddle hackles. If you want it to sink even slower, add more hackles. Note that this fly is actually unweighted, so you would expect to ride rather high in the water column.



Saltwater Fly of the Month

Red October



Hook: Standard saltwater, 1 to 1/0

Thread: Black super floss

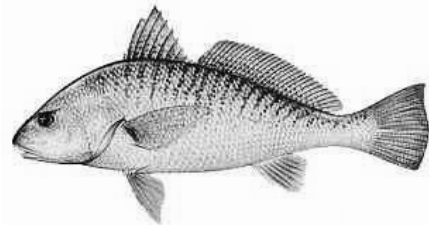
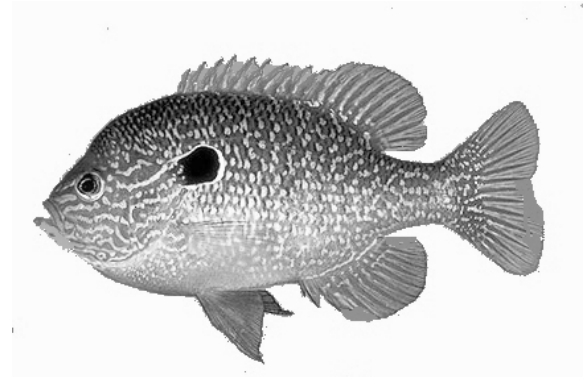
Tail: Pearlescent Krystal Flash

Body: Orange Cactus Chenille

Wing: Red craftfur (of bucktail) with orange Krystal Flash

Turned Eyes: Optional

This fly was tied by Dana Griffin, III for speckled trout and redfish. There is no doubt that it is striking. I've been on the water at times when the specks were biting, but not if you didn't have red or red/orange in you fly or lure. This fly is flashy and bright and contains those colors. I hope to get a chance of tossing one these this spring! The fly is fished like any streamer. Which of course means you get to experiment with speed, length of strips, pauses, etc. until you find what the fish really want.



Calendar

- Mar 16 PBFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Glass Menagerie, 1845 Causeway Blvd., Covington, LA
- Mar 16 NOFF Fly Tying 7:30 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 1441 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA
- Mar 16-18 Sowbug Roundup, Family Life Center, Mountain Home, AR
- Mar 21 CFC Mtg., Rm. 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA, 6 pm Tying, 7 pm Meeting
- Mar 21 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
- Mar 25-26 Shallow Water Expo, Austin, TX
- Mar 27 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
- Mar 27 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
- Mar 30 NOFF Mtg., 7:30 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 1441 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA
- Apr 3 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
- Apr 4 AFR Mtg., 6 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
- Apr 5 PBFF Mtg., 7 pm, Louisiana Food & Spirits on Lee Lane, Covington, LA

Officers

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