

March 2008

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

March meeting of the Contraband Fly Casters: Tuesday March 18, 2009 in Kirkman 200 on the McNeese campus in Lake Charles, LA. Fly tying begins at 6:00 pm, with the regular meeting beginning at 7 pm

Vice President's Message

Well spring might be here, or at least close. With all the cold fronts coming through of late it is hard to tell. I hope it gets here quick...I want to do some productive panfishing, and some stable weather will definitely help.

I spent this past Saturday as a demo tyer at Red Day in Baton Rouge. Red Stick Day was well attended and featured Terry and Roxanne Wilson, Nick Curcione and Pete Cooper, Jr. There were plenty of other demo tyers there as well, some of which were Bob Boese, Dirk Burton, Marc Pinsel, Jeaux McMahan, Don Richardson, and more. As usual they had a very successful raffle to raise money. Since I was in Baton Rouge, and a whopping three miles or so away from the new Bass Pro shop in Denham Springs, after Red Stick Day was over, a visit was definitely in order. The sheer amount of customers was nearly overwhelming...the police would let you go in one way on the access road, but you had to leave going another and essentially go around a very large block to get back to the road where you could access I-12 to head home. I went in using my wheelchair (I had already walked more than I should have) and took a look around the fishing department (lots of nice stuff) before heading to the the White River Fly Shop section. The tying materials were a bit sparser than I would have liked to see personally, but a fairly good selection. There were also plenty of flies being sold that would be effective locally. It is evident that they have consulted with local fly fishers on what flies to stock. My big reason for going was that I needed a couple of fly reels (at the moment I have quite a few more rods than reels), some 3-D eyes (I used them up during Red Stick Day), and some glass worm rattles for rattle flies. After looking over the selection of reels (and they carry and excellent selection), I decided on buying two Hobbs Creek III (7-8 wt) fly reels (a Bass Pro brand) for \$40 each. Nice

reels for the price. I ended of leaving Bass Pro \$112 lighter. Good thing I left when I did...I can't really afford any more than that this month!!

In a bit more disturbing news, one of our members, Ron Foreman was in an accident in work. He ended up falling 15 ft into an empty concrete pit. He broke his pelvis and a lumbar vertebra. He had surgery to repair the damage, but it looks like he'll be off work and limited in movement for somewhere between three and six months. He is hoping to be mobile enough to attend the GCC conclave in May. Ron only made back home Friday March 7, after a two week plus stay in the hospital. Keep Ron in your prayers and thoughts as he recovers.

I urge everyone to attend our second fishing outing of the year. Our first was last month at Sam Houston Jones State Park (and yes, everyone caught at least one fish), and though rather sparsely attended was quite a bit of fun, and very pleasant. This month's event is March 15 starting at 2 pm till dark, at Fred Hannie's pond. We had a very successful event at Fred's pond last summer, and are doing another one. For complete details, please see the article below.

Mark Delaney

Contraband Fly Casters Fishing Outing at Fred Hannie's Pond March 15th

This coming Saturday March 15, 2008 we have another Contraband Fly Fishing Event planned: An outing at Fred Hannie's pond. We had a very successful event last year at Fred's pond. The event will be from 2 pm until dark. If you plan on coming, please RSVP to either 337/475-5956 or respond to this e-mail at contrabandflycasters@yahoo.com by Thursday March 13th. Please also indicate what type of side dish you would

be wining to bring. (Last year we relied totally on Fred's generosity, and he went all out. This year we want to help out. Fred still wants to cook the meet however.) In case of rain, we can stay on Fred's large covered back porch Directions to Fred's place and his contact information are below:

From Burton Coliseum proceed east on Gauthier Road until you reach Hwy 397. Turn right on Hwy 397 proceeding south 5 miles and then turn left on Levee Loop. The address is 3914 Levee Loop. The house is gray with a green roof.

Fred Hannie
3914 Levee Loop
Lake Charles, LA 70607

Phone: 337/477-6997
E-mail: hannief@bellsouth.net

We urge to come, have a good time and get a little fishing in as well. Fred's pond has bass, bluegill, crappie (white perch) and a couple of gar he'd love to have removed.

Fishing Reports

Freshwater fishing has been iffy at best, with the cold fronts coming through. As soon as it looks like things might be stabilizing front comes through, essentially setting the clock back again. On the saltwater side, apparently the redfish are still all over Calcasieu Lake, and if you hit the weather right, you can have a good day on specks as well. And it looks like the saltwater fishing will only get better as the weather warms up. Apparently the one saltwater species that is being affected by the cold fronts is flounder. When a cold front sweeps through, the flounder will retreat from the flats to deeper holes, making them a bit more difficult target.

Conclaves & Meetings

The Sowbug Roundup fly tying event will be on March 13-15th from 9 am to 4 pm at the Redeemer Lutheran Family Life Center, 307 north Street, Mountain Home, AR.

On March 15th at Leeville/Grand Isle the 5th Annual Paddlepalooze Kayak fishing Tournament sponsored by Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club will be held. For rules and registration see <http://www.bkfc.org> .

On March 27-30 the Southern Sportsman's Expo will be held at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, LA, For more information see <http://www.sprtsmans-expos.com> . For those willing to go farther afield, the FFF National Expo will be held March 28-30 in ate the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, FL. This show will feature Lefty Kreh, Diana Rudolph, Bruce Richards, Jon Cave, Nick Curcione, Dave Whitlock, Oscar Felieu, and others.

April 5th brings the rescheduled Acadiana Fly Rodders Conclave at Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

April 11-13th will be the D'Arbonne Rendezvous at Lake D'Arbonne State Park near Farmville, LA. This event is sponsored by the Ouachita Fly Fishers of West Monroe, LA.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman will be held at Camp

Grant Walker near Pollack, LA From April 18 through April 20th . For details please see <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/education/becominganoutdoorswoman/> .

The Smallmouth Rendezvous will be May 2-3rd at the Tahlequah Comunity Building, 300 W. 1st St., Tahlequah, OK. This event will feature Dave and Emily Whitlock, Fox Satler, and Terry and Roxanne Wilson. For more information check <http://www.oksmallmouthbass.com> .

May 16 - 17th is the 2nd Gulf Coast Council Expo at the Lake Charles Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, LA. For more information see <http://www.gulfcoast.org/index.php?page=Expo-2008> .

The 17th Annual Southeastern Council Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave will be May 29 - 31st at Callaway Gardens, GA.

Donations for GCC Expo Solicited

Believe it or not it's that time again. Our May 16 ~~and~~, 2008 conclave will be upon us before we know it. Again it will be at the Convention Center in Lake Charles, LA. Please make your plans to be there.

Donations are what make our Auction and Raffle programs work and the generosity of our members. Please consider donating items. The Auction and Raffle program at our Expo is our major means of support for projects that the GCC undertakes.

Almost any item related to fly fishing and the outdoors will be appropriate. Boxes of flies are always popular and sporting related art work is VERY welcomed. Please be inventive, and please be generous once again.

Also, we would appreciate knowing what items the membership would especially like us to make available for A/R at the conclave. Please contact us at the addresses below.

For those who are contributing, please contact us as soon as possible detailing the nature of the contribution, so we can set it up into raffles or auctions. We also need to arrange delivery of the items. Should you be coming to the conclave, which we certainly hope is the case, you can deliver items directly to me or Robert as we will be there from Thursday, May 15 on. If you cannot attend, items can be sent to me at the address below, and I will send you a receipt of acceptance detailing all that has been received. Remember it's tax deductible.

Thanks for your help. Let's make this an even more successful conclave!

Syd Smith
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Robert Peet
601-540-8717
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Freshwater Fly of the Month

Bead Head Rope-Dubbed Marabou Soft Hackle



Hook: #10 Aberdeen

Bead: 4 mm 14 K gold-plated or sterling silver

Thread: 3/0 of desired color

Tail and body: One long marabou plume of desired color

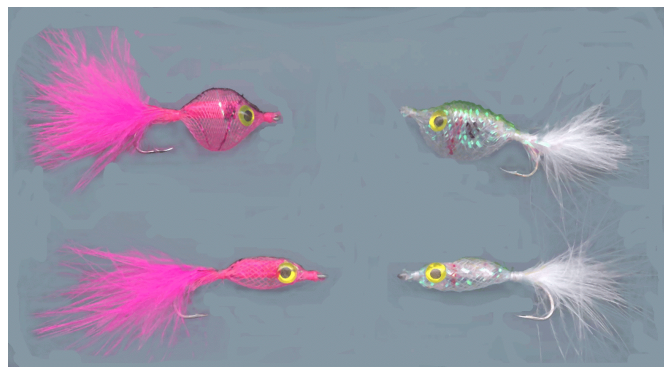
Soft Hackle: Guinea plumage of desired color

Tying Instructions: Place bead on hook (beads are actually from Mixhael's and are about the same price you'd have to pay to get them from an online fly shop). You may have to bend the hook straighter to place the bead on the hook and then bend the hook back (a good reason to use the light wire aberdeen hooks). Secure the bead in place with wraps of thread. Wrap the thread to the bend of the hook. Select a long marabou plume, and tie in a short tail of marabou using the tip of the marabou plume. **DO NOT CUT OFF THE REST OF THE PLUME!!** Pull out a good length of thread from the bobbin and then start wrapping the remainder of the marabou plume around the thread making a dubbing noodle. The next step is really the key to the technique known as rope dubbing: Using some type of hackle pliers, apply it to the dubbing, and keep twisting it until you form a chenille of the desired thickness. I find that the electronic test clips (Radio Shack item) work ideally for this. Wrap your body using your rope-dubbed dubbing. At the end to tie off your dubbing you may have to unwind a bit at the end to tie off where you desire. Form a base of thread just behind the bead and tie in the guinea plumage by the tip of the feather. Take several wraps around until you get the fullness desired and tie off the soft hackle and trim. Finish with a whip finish.

I have to thank Don Ordes of Caspar, Wyoming for teaching me this technique when he was in Lake Charles visiting on the Martin Luther King holiday. Rope dubbing is a single thread technique that is amenable to both very short and very long dubbings. In fact, Don showed me how to tie the "Holiday Fry" I submitted for our December slub fly swap in less than two minutes (and that includes the time to glue on the eyes!!). My previous method was approaching 10 minutes per fly. I had planned to demonstrate this technique at Red Stick Day, but everyone was more interested in the next fly, a saltwater fly. I will be demonstrating the technique of rope dubbing at our fly tying session on March 18th. - Mark Delaney

Saltwater Fly of the Month

Acrylic Mesh Minnow



Hook: Mustad 92611 Size 1 or 1/0, offset straightened

Tail: Marabou

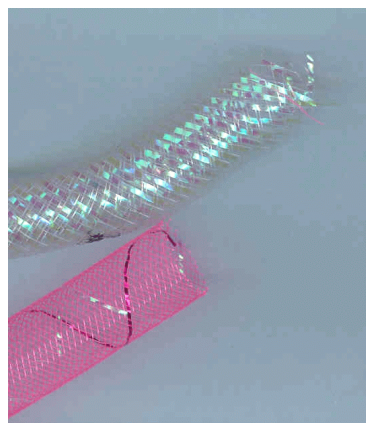
Rattle: 4 mm diameter glass worm rattle

Thread: Pink or white, as appropriate

Body: Designer Ribbon, stretchable acrylic tube ribbon

Eyes: 3-D prism eyes or painted fabric paint eyes

Tying Instruction: The major new thing here is the body material. It is essentially a large braid of 3/4" diameter which can be stretched to make thin bodies, or compressed to make fat, shad shaped bodies. The braid is completely porous, allowing these minnow flies to sink quickly with no problem. The mesh ribbon is available at Hobby Lobby, near the ribbon and gift wrap section. A close up of the mesh tube is below:



Completely wrap the shank of the hook with thread. Coat this with head cement of the equivalent (Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails). After it is dry, advance the thread to mid shank and tie on the worm rattle. Wrap the rattle as completely as possible in thread, and wrap the thread to the bend of the hook. Coat the rattle with head cement. Tie in

the marabou tail. Tie in the mesh ribbon, making sure to get all the fibers tied down. Make secure wraps and tie off and add head cement to the wrappings. For thin bodies stretch the ribbon, for fat ones, compress the ribbon and wrap to secure the shape at the eye of the hook. Trim off the tubing about 3/8" in front to the eye. Make your wraps secure, and then trim the excess mesh in front of the eye with a small scissors. Make the head tie off as neat as possible and finish with a whip finish. Glue on eyes (using E-6000) or paint on eyes with fabric paint. Decorate fly with appropriate markers such as Sharpies or Pantone pens. - Mark Delaney (and yes, I'll demo this one too..)

Calendar

Mar 13 NOFF Fly Tying 1, 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA
Mar 13-15 Sowbug Roundup, Mountain Home, AR
Mar 15 CFC Potluck/Fishing at Fred Hannie's pond, 2 pm until dark
Mar 18 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Mar 18 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm fly tying, 7 pm meeting Room 200, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles LA
Mar 20 NOFF Fly Tying 2, 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA
Mar 24 RSFF Fly Tying, LA Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Mar 27 NOFF Mtg., 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA
Mar 27 Southern Sportsman's Expo, Superdome, New Orleans, LA
Mar 28-30 FFF National Expo, Lakeland FL
Mar 31 ORFF Mtg., 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
Apr 1 AFR Mtg., 7 pm, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
Apr 5 AFR Conclave, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
Apr 10 NOFF Fly Tying 1, 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA
Apr 11-13 D'Arbonne Rendezvous, Lake D'Arbonne State Park, Farnerville, LA
Apr 14 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Apr 15 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Apr 15 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm fly tying, 7 pm meeting Room 200, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles LA

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Alternate website: <http://cbfc0.tripod.com/index2.htm>