

**May 2007**

# Contraband

## Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

**May Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 2007 in room 204 of Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. Fly tying 6:00 pm, meeting & program 7:00 pm. This month: short presentation on tying flies with craft store materials, followed by round table discussion (led by Mark Delaney)**

### President's Message

This May is giving Southwest Louisiana fly fishermen a lot to be excited about. The marsh is full of redfish, specks are active in the lake, bluegill should be getting on the beds, and bass should be getting over the post spawn blues. There is much to be excited about off of the water as well. The inaugural Federation of Fly Fishers Gulf Coast Expo will be held here at the Civic Center May 18th – 20th. I know this is being covered elsewhere in this newsletter so I won't take up space with it now, but I hope to see you there.

Here in Lake Charles we are in a "fly shop black hole". The closest fly shops to us are at least 2 hours away. This can be troublesome at times when you want to tie a specific pattern and realize you are short on materials. Materials are available on line and through mail order houses, but when the fish are biting, it's hard to wait on delivery. Many industrious and innovative anglers have turned toward using materials available at craft stores for tying flies, and often with great results. I don't think anyone will pretend that a bag of feathers from Hobby Lobby can compare with a Whiting Gold cape for producing #18 dry flies, but there are many materials available at craft stores that can, and do produce flies that are serviceable and productive, particularly for saltwater patterns, and poppers or top-water flies.

The program for our May meeting will explore the options available to fly tiers at craft stores. The meeting program will be a "craft store fly round-table" where anyone who has a craft store pattern they would like to share is welcome and encouraged to contribute to the program. The round-table will be headed up by Mark Delaney who has much experience tying flies with materials found at craft stores. I've got a little craft store special I will share as well. Oh, and in case you haven't noticed, virtually anything you buy at a craft store will be MUCH less expensive than a similar item labeled as "fly tying materials" or sold through a fly shop.

Please join us for the May meeting. Your attendance is needed.

Tight Lines,

Ron Begnaud

### First Gulf Coast Council Conclave & Expo

The first Conclave and Expo of the newly formed Gulf Coast Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be May 18-20, 2007, right here in Lake Charles at the Lake Charles Civic Center. This is a great opportunity for those who normally can't make it to a big meeting (eg. Southern Conclave in Mountain Home, AR or Southeastern

Conclave in Georgia) to attend. The featured speakers at several workshops are Lefty Kreh and Nick Curcione (spots are getting slim in their workshops, however). There will be over 30 exhibitors of various products there (including canoes & kayaks), demo fly tyers, on-demand casting instruction, one hour Fly Tying 101 classes for those who want the basics to begin tying, and lots more. There is crawfish boil (tickets needed) on Friday night and a banquet on Saturday night (tickets needed). Friday will be workshops only, while Saturday and Sunday, everything is going on. For registration materials and all the details please go to the GCC-FFF website at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=expo> To insure that registration is received in time, the last day for registration via mail is Friday May 11, 2007. Early registration discounts have been extended. So make sure you get your registration in the mail and postmarked by this Friday!!!

### Fishing Reports

The only thing I can tell you for sure is that it doesn't matter whether Ron Foreman and I go freshwater or saltwater fishing...we can always find muddy water!! In late April we took one trip to the Sabine River (launching at the Burnt Out Bridge). The water was much muddier than we would have expected. Ron managed to get a few hits from what proved to be gar, and I managed a couple of half-hearted hits, that resulted in no hook-ups. The last weekend in April we tried fishing Calcasieu Lake, our first saltwater adventure of the year. I managed to get a whopping three hits and no hook-ups. The most frustrating thing was probably sitting in a cut in Rabbit Island and having rat reds hitting something near the surface all around us. We tried a myriad of flies, Clousers, half & halves, rattle rousers, spoon flies, shrimp imitations, etc. and could never entice one of the rat reds to bite...flashes of copper all around the boat. The water was just muddy enough that you couldn't tell exactly what they were chasing. Our fate was more or less sealed when a large red, 25-30 pounds lazied by withing four feet of the boat swimming on top. Im sure if he was able to he would have stuck his tongue out at us and given us a raspberry. He also wasn't intersted in anything we had, and obviously wasn't scared of us. Unfortunately, that will be out last trip until after the GCC Conclave & Expo. My duties as VP of Communications and other duties at the Conclave are going to keep me too busy to do much until after that date. -Mark Delaney

### Some Workshop Available at GCC-FFF Conclave & Expo

Below are some of the workshops that are available:

Fly Casting with Lefty Kreh  
Casting 2-Handed Rods - Nick Curcione  
Knots, Lines & Leaders for Saltwater Fishing-Nick Curcione  
Getting Fish to the Boat: Knots, Hooking and Fighting Techniques - Lefty Kreh  
Outdoor Phtography - Lefty Kreh  
How to Cast Longer - Lefty Ray Chapa  
Intro to Deer Hair Tying - Diane Blair  
Tying Dry Fly Fundamentals - Rich Evans  
Presentation, Accuracy, Roll Casting, other techniques - Barkely Souders  
Woven flies and Panfish Flies - Dirk Burton  
CCI Get Ready Class - Al Crise  
Basics of Kayak Fishing - Kristen and Danny Wray  
Youth Fly Tying - Mel Pecaut & others  
Fly Casting for Couples/Spouses - Mary Rohrer and Al Crise  
Coastal Flats Fly Patterns - Jim Clark  
Stategies for IGFA and State Records - Capt. Brandon Shuler  
Fly Casting 101 - Rusty & Carolyn Dunn, Bob Tabbert, Keith Richard  
Youth Casting Clinic - Roger del Rio and others  
Solving Your Casting Problems - Colby "Pops" Sorrell  
Fly Tying for Women - Diane Blair  
Rigging Canoes & Kayaks for Fishing -Lefty Ray Chapa & Steve Lee  
Casting for Saltwater - Jerome Zerangue  
Casting for Moving Waters - Skip Kessler and Al Crise  
Advanced Deer Hair Tying - Ken Bohannan  
Casting from Canoes & Kayaks - Glen "Catch" Cormier  
Tying Foam Hoppers and Bugs - Jerome & Dena Hebert  
Flats Boat on a Budget - Ron Begnaud

Hopefully the list above has several things that interest you...there's still time to sign up for many of these workshops (most require a fee). For full details see the workshops pdf at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=expo>



## Freshwater Fly of the Month

### Feather Shad



**Hook:** 1/0 gold Aberdeen

**Body:** Mylar silver tinsel

**Body Wings:** Two large grizzly hen feathers

**Wing topping:** 4-6 strands of peacock herl

**Throat:** Red marabou

**Eyes:** Chartreuse adhesive eyes

**Tying instructions:** Tie on the thread and form a smooth underbody of thread to the bend of the hook. Tie in the tinsel and wrap the thread back trying to keep the body as smooth as possible. Wind the tinsel forward forming the body, and tie off near the eye of the hook, trimming off any excess tinsel. Tie in a matched pair of large hen feathers (grizzly in this case) as the body wings along each side of the hook, making sure to leave enough room to add the throat. Add a throat of red marabou. Top the body wings with 4-6 strands of peacock herl. Add adhesive eyes to the body wings centered on the hook shank. The fly can obviously be easily modified by using whatever color large hen feathers you might have available.

This fly is designed to more or less just sit still in the water column...in other words just to sit in front of the face of that not really active bass saying "Here I am!! Dumb as a post!! Come eat me!!" Any retrieve should basically be slight twitches to indicate life. Of course the fly can also be retrieved in a more conventional manner as a streamer as well.



## Saltwater Fly of the Month

### Anchovy Bendback



**Hook:** 3/0 saltwater

**Body:** Silver tinsel

**Wing:** White fishhair topped with chartreuse fishhair, topped with blue fishhair, topped with silver tinsel, topped with peacock herl.

**Head:** Built up from black thread with painted eyes, coated with epoxy

**Tying instructions:** Attach your thread and wind to the bend of the hook. Tie in the tinsel and wind the thread back to the eye of the hook. Wind the tinsel forward to eye of the hook, tie off and trim any excess tinsel. Then tie in white fishhair, top that with blue fishhair, top that with silver tinsel and then top the tinsel with 4-6 strands of peacock herl. Build up a nice, neat fairly large head head from the black tying thread. Paint eyes, white with black pupils. When the paint is dry, coat the head with epoxy.

This is another version of the bendback style of tying, with it's advantage of fewer snags and following on aquatic vegetation. Bendbacks usually have slightly bent hooks and are streamers with inverted hooks. This version should be useful for many species of saltwater fish. The example here is another one tied by the late Tom Tully.



## Calendar

May 14 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
May 15 NLF F Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA  
May 15 CFC Mtg., 6 pm tying, 7 pm mtg., Room 204, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA  
May 18-20 Gulf Coast Expo, Fri 12-4:30 pm, Sat & Sun 8:30-4:30 pm Lake Charle Civic Center, Lake Charles, LA  
May 28 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA  
May 28 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
May 31 NOFF Mtg., 7:30 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA  
June 5 AFR Mtg., 6 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA  
June 8-9 FFF Southeast Conclave, Callaway Gardens, GA  
June 11 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
June 19 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA  
June 19 CFC Mtg., 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting Room 204, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA

## Officers

**President:** Ron Begnaud, 337/477-7584,  
[redchaser@redchaser.com](mailto:redchaser@redchaser.com)

**Vice President:** Mark Delaney, 337/475-5956  
( O f f ), 3 3 7 / 4 7 7 - 3 8 4 5 ( H o m e ),  
[chemprof2001@yahoo.com](mailto:chemprof2001@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Danny Williams, 337/479-4077,  
[dwilliams@lwcpafirm.com](mailto:dwilliams@lwcpafirm.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mark Delaney, 337/477-3845,  
[chemprof2001@yahoo.com](mailto:chemprof2001@yahoo.com)

**Webmaster:** Ron Begnaud, 337/477-7584,  
[redchaser@redchaser.com](mailto:redchaser@redchaser.com)

### Club e-mail address:

[contrabandflycasters@yahoo.com](mailto:contrabandflycasters@yahoo.com), messages will come from "Jean Lafitte"

**C l u b w e b s i t e :**  
<http://www.contrabandflycasters.com>