

November 2006

Contraband

Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

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

President's Message

I know, i know, this newsletter is very, very, late! I'm sorry, but for once my job really has interfered with my supposedly "free" time. In fact, I'm writing this on my laptop while one of my CHEM 101 sections is taking a test. Probably won't finish this before they do, either. Most of the news I have to offer concerns the new Gulf Coast Council of the FFF. Ron foreman and I represented our club at the last board meeting which took place November 4th at North Toledo Bend State Park during the Toledo Bend Rendezvous. We heard reports from each vice president about their areas and their concerns. One of the big concerns was that we'll need to replace the Vice President of Education, since our own Ron Thomas resigned the post. Ron resigned since he will be moving next early year, for a reason most of will be jealous...he's moving to begin guiding flyfishing trips in Montana. The big item of course was the first Gulf Coast Conclave and Exhibition to take place May 18, 19, and 20, 2006 in the Lake Charles Civic Center. Prior to the meeting Ron Begnaud, Buzzy Burns, Catch Cormier, Bill Heugel and myself had looked over the facilities we are renting trying to get an idea of how thngs should/could be laid out. Bill Heugel (flytying chair for the conclave) developed a plan for the Exhibition Hall which was presented at the meeting. I had my own questions for the board since I'm responsible for getting the GCC's first

newsletter out. My questions were answered to my satisfaction and I'm in the process of gathering information. I hope to have it out about November 30-December 1. By the way, I'm going to put a coldwater, a warmwater, and a saltwater fly pattern in the newsletter, so if you have a suggestion of of a pattern, I'd appreciate it. We are the host club for this upcoming conclave, which will be a big event. This month's meeting topic will be some long-range planning of how we want to tackle some of the challenges and opportunities that our responsibilities as host club. Please come to this month's meeting so wed can do some planning!! By the way, I'll be at the flytying session at 6:00 this month, since MxcNeese is out for the week of Thanksgiving. You won't have any trouble finding a parking spot, either.

Mark Delaney

Good News from Sabine Refuge

At recent meeting when i suggested that we have someone from the Sabine Refuge, the club more or less said, that they didn't want to here any more bad news, and would prefer a tying based program for the next month (which we've done for the past two months, actually). The major clean upj of the marsh areas has been finished ahead of schedule. They had tagged a little over 1100 items for removal, but the contractors actually found over

2800 items and removed them. The marsh area, however, has a lot more open water than previously, due to destroyed vegetation from the hurricane. The next part of the project is to remove submerged debris from the canals which may provide boating hazards. Such debris is being located via sonar. Refuge officials say they hope to have at least parts of the refuge open to recreational users by June 2007. Officials also report that wildlife is returning to the refuge, but is of course not as abundant as it was before Hurricane Rita (yet).

North Toledo Bend Rendezvous

Flytyers from Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas (plus Steve Griffin from Oklahoma) gathered at North Toledo Bend State Park near Zwolle, LA on November 3, 4 and 5, 2006 to learn new tying techniques, meet new friends and renew acquaintances. Over 50 people attended this year. Flytying wasn't the only activity available, Bob Tabbert of Lafayette (an FFF certified casting instructor) was also outdoors much of the time helping people with their casting stroke and trying out different rods that people had brought. The other big attraction was food...the variety and amount was unbelievable...I think there was actually probably enough there to feed everyone for over a week. Ron Foreman and I couldn't go to Toledo Bend and not try fishing, so Ron launched his boat and we attempted to fool some fish. I managed to get a few half-hearted bumps on a very small white spider. The problem was that at the time there was hatch of small (16-18) cream colored midges coming off the water...and my flies of that type were in Lake Charles. We finally said it was time for lunch, and headed to the boat launch, where a family was fishing, and as we approached a teenaged girl caught a 3 1/2 to 4 pound bass on a spinnerbait. Never fails. Catch Cormier did catch a couple of nice brook trout from shore on poppers Sunday morning, but had to resort to a spinnerbait to land any bass. Ron and I enjoyed our time there, even if our main purpose had been to go the GCC board meeting on Saturday evening. Ron is already making plans to attend the Spring Rendezvous at Lake D'Arbonne, and if possible I'm going with him (My schedule for spring is not yet set, but will be soon).

Upcoming Events of 2007

With the beginning of a new year, there will be lots of events of interest to a flyfisher coming in rapid succession. Sometime in February will be the

Texas fly Tying Festival in Houston, TX, but the date is not yet confirmed. The Acadiana Fly Rodders' Conclave will be on February 17 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Lafayette, LA. On March 3, 2007 the Red Stick Fly Fishers hold their annual conclave, Red Stick Day at Waddill Outdoors Center in Baton Rouge, LA, well worth attending. March 4, & 5 2007 will be the Fly Fishing Show in Arlington, TX. March 8-11 is the Louisiana Sportsmen Show at Lamar-Dixon in Gonzales, LA. Sowbug Roundup is March 15-17 at the Family Life Center in Mountain Home, AR. March 25-26, 2007 is the Warm Water Expo in Austin, TX. Spring Rendezvous at Lake D'Arbonne State Park near Monroe, LA is April 13-14, 2007. On May 6, 2007 the Red Stick Fly Fishers hold "Fly Fishing 101" at the Waddill Outdoors Center in Baton Rouge. The big event for us, of course, is the first Gulf Coast Council Conclave and Exhibition is May 18, 19, and 20, 2007 at the Lake Charles Civic Center. June 7-9, 2007 is the Southeastern Council FFF Conclave at Callaway Gardens Resort, GA. June 8-9 is the Small Smallmouth Rendezvous in at the Tallequal Community Building in Tallequah, OK. That list doesn't include any of the boat shows that seem to cycle through the area in late January through February. More than enough to keep anyone busy.

Holiday Specialty Roast Coffee

This Holiday season how many people do you know who should get a \$10 - \$20 gift from you? Most people have a dozen or more friends or business contacts who fit that criteria. The FFF has a simple way to help you! Go to the Federation web site at www.fedflyfishers.org and click on the coffee logo at the bottom left corner to order fresh coffee for your friends this year, or use the 'Specialty Roast Coffee' site www.specialtyroast.com to order. The coffee bags can be personalized with your favorite fishing photo like our family does, your company logo, or a family snap shot. The coffee selection is outstanding (espresso to Costa Rican), the quality is superb, the taste is outstanding! The price is very reasonable and you can have the personalized packaging act as your greeting card. Every time your friends make coffee, they will be reminded of you. The Federation is rewarded too for your order by a donation from 'Specialty Roast Coffee'. This donation helps us bring fly fishing to more people, and will help protect fly fishing for the future. We seriously ask you to consider using this offer to help promote and support fly fishing, and

to simplify your gift giving this year. Bob Shirley -
Dir. of Membership FFF

Freshwater Fly of the Month

Wigl-Bug

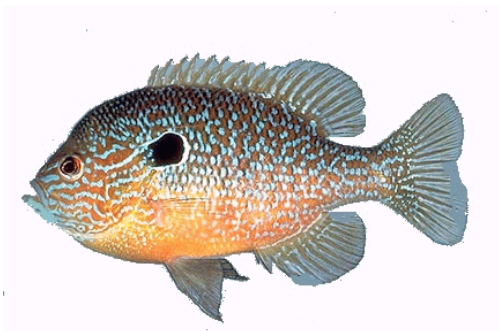


Body: Laminated 2mm foam
Tail: tinsel or flash and saddle hackles, tied splayed
Eyes: optional
HOOK: Aberdeen or other longshanked hook

Tying Instructions: Laminate layers of 2 mm foam together to the desired thickness using rubber cement or contact cement. Cut the body to shape using a scissors and/or razor blade. Using a bodkin make two hole to thread hook through. Glue the body in place on the hook using Goop. Glue or paint eyes on body, if eyes are desired. Allow to cure overnight. Apply flash material to tail and two pairs of saddle hackle, splayed.

This is a rather simple fly (although some would argue that is really a lure, but that's not for discussion here). The fly is designed to wobble in current or with a slow retrieve and the shape is patterned after the Flatfish or Lazy Ike type of lure design. Versions of this fly have proven very effective in freshwater (as well as saltwater). A warning, however: if you retrieve the fly too fast it may start to spin or turn on its side.

I've made these types of Wigl-bugs from size 6 to size 2/0, the real challenge is with the smaller sizes, getting proportions correct so the fly performs as desired.



Saltwater Fly of the Month



Mitey Mite
Hook: Mustad 34011 size 6
Thread: 3/0 brown monocord
Underbody: Gold diamond braid
Overbody: Brown LarvaLace
Wing: Orange Bucktail

Tying instructions/tips: this is a simple fly to tie. Start the thread on the hook and wrap to the bend of the hook. Tie in the gold Diamond Braid (substitutes could be gold metallic canvas yarn or gold Krienik braid). Tie in the brown LarvaLace. Wrap the braid forward with good tension forming a smooth underbody and tie off leaving adequate room for the wing and head. Then wrap the brown LarvaLace forward with good tension forming a smooth body. Add a wing of orange bucktail and finish the fly by forming a small neat head of brown thread. Whip finish and add head cement and the fly is done. This very simple fly is a essentially small baitfish or small shrimp imitation, and tied as shown is relatively weedless. This should be good for everything from specks to flounder to redfish. This example of the Mitey Mite was tied by the late Tom Tully in 1998.



Calendar

Nov 21 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA
Nov 21 CFC Mtg., 6 pm tying, 7 pm meeting, Room 202, Kirkman Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA
Nov 27 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Nov 27 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
Nov 30 NOFF Mtg., 7:30 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie LA
Decr 4 ORFF Flytying, 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA
Dec 5 AFR Mtg., 6 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA
Dec 6 PBFF Mtg., 7 pm, Louisiana Food & Spirits on Lee Lane, Covington, LA
Dec 11 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

Officers

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<http://www.contrabandflycasters.com>

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