

# October 2007

# Contraband

## Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

**October Meeting: Tuesday October 16, 2007 in Room 201 of Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. Rod building class starts at 6:00 pm with the regular meeting at 7:00 pm.**

### Vice President's Message

If you are wondering why the Contraband Fly Casters webpage at <http://www.contrabandflycasters.com> has not been updated in a while, I found I found the reason while talking with our club President, Ron Begnaud. It seems that Ron got a new computer and it uses the Windows Vista operating system. Unfortunately, the software he likes to use to update the page is not Windows Vista compatible, so he'll have to order a new version of the software. While Ron sorts those problems out, you can still find all the information you need about the Contraband Fly Casters at <http://cbfc0.tripod.com/index2.htm>, our old web domain. This site is still maintained, just in case of problems like this.

This Saturday, October 13 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salt Water Fly Fishers Picnic sponsored by Urban Angler of New Orleans in Pointe a la Haiche at the Woodland plantation. Notables such as Stu Apte, Enrico Puglisi, and Flip Pallot will be there. Ron Foreman and I had planned to attend, but unexpected work commitments will prevent us from doing so. Hopefully we'll be able to get a report Tuesday from one of our members who will be able to attend.

Also coming up relatively soon is the North Toledo Bend Rendezvous at North Toledo Bend State Park November 2-4. This is a well attended meeting, but I'm not sure if I should tell you if the emphasis was on fly tying, or food. To me last year, I think food may have won out. There are lots of tiers to learn from there, and great

fellowship. For more details please see <http://home=sprynet.com/~waltermc/Rendez/indexR.html>.

At the Southern Council Conclave in Mountain Home, Arkansas on Sunday October 7, a presentation was made to the Southern Council board detailing the financial situation, memberships status and goals, education goals, and conservation goals for the coming year for the Gulf Coast Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (currently operating as a sub-council of the Southern Council). The presentation was followed by a motion that the Southern Council recommend to the FFF that the Gulf Coast Council be given full council status effective January 1, 2008. The SOC Board passed unanimously. Good news!! Planning of the GCC Council now turns our second conclave and expo, to take place in May in Lake Charles again.

On the environmental front there are two issues that hit the news. The first is a lawsuit charging that the current plan for red snapper has not addressed recovering the number of red snapper for a sustainable fishery. The other news that was of interest had to do with ethanol as fuel. A recently completed study suggests that if corn is used as the feedstock that this could have an adverse effect on water quality. The reason for this is that corn requires fertilizer. It is estimated that up to three cents worth of fertilizer (wish I could quantify that amount differently, but I have no idea of the price of bulk fertilizer) will wash off the land and into the natural water systems. The concern is this could cause areas devoid of life, like the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. It is significant to note that the majority of all water that fall between the Appalachians and the Rockies drains

through the Mississippi River system. It sounds like they are worried about increasing the size of the dead zone. The study doesn't recommend abandoning ethanol as a fuel, but instead of switching feedstocks to a crop that doesn't require fertilizing, such as switchgrass. The projects I know of in Louisiana aren't using corn, but the leftover products from processing sugar cane, and thus are not increasing the amount of fertilizer used.

Mark Delaney

## Fishing Reports

Of personal fishing reports I can't tell you much. Ron Foreman and I managed to get out once since September meeting. I didn't catch anything of note (except perhaps the smallest gafftop I've ever seen). Ron did catch a nice 3 pound or so speckled trout, on live shrimp. Our flyfishing efforts, however, came to naught. Conditions were tough, the tide really wasn't in our favor and it was the day after a full moon (I've never had any luck fishing after a full moon...in my opinion lots of the predators gorge all night in those conditions.) I've heard little about freshwater fishing, just spotty reports. Both Sabine Refuge and Lacassine Refuge close to fishing October 15<sup>th</sup>, so there is one last weekend to try those spots for the year.

### North Toledo Bend Rendezvous

The date is Friday November 2nd thru Sunday the 4th, 2007. Rendezvous is the result of several fly fishermen gathering to fish and tie flies at the state park many years ago. After a couple of years of growing pains they found the park's group facility! And what a facility indeed! A capacity of 150 people in 5 heated log bunkhouses (30 beds each), a heated central shower and restroom building with nice night lighting on all the sidewalks and a large main log building with A/C, a commercial kitchen, dining hall, fireplace, a long front porch, picnic table and a large barbeque trailer out front.

We begin gathering before 3 PM on Friday when the park staff unlocks the facility and checks out our cooking gear. Families and individuals check in at the main office and ask for their FREE pass for the "Fly Fishing Group". Once at the facility, the first order of business is finding the necessary bunks in one of the 5 bunkhouses. Segmented for couples, male singles, female singles, families with kids and the last for "Non-Snorers Only". The bedroom in each bunkhouse is designated for a dressing room "not sleeping" so that you can have some privacy when needed. This room might also be used by a mother with a new baby.

Next to the main hall where you meet fellow fly fishers, sign the register and pay for the weekend. The family fee is \$40 for the weekend or \$20 for a day or night. Single's fee is \$30 for the weekend or \$15 for the day or night. What a bargain!!

Next is unloading food to the kitchen. Everyone is asked to bring their necessary foods for the weekend. Most people bring to share, so all you need to provide is a nice sized dish for each feast or meal. This gives you a chance to show off your favorite dish or creation! You can imagine out of 60 to 65 people, the feast we have! Eating is a real treat! No restaurant could provide better food!

To pass the day, all the fly tyers set up their vises

in the dining hall on the tables. We always manage to have plenty of room for eating when the time comes. All day and into the late evening, tyers do their thing while spectators sit, watch and ask questions. This is not an insignificant event because some of the top fly tyers in the nation attend Rendezvous every year! This is your one chance to spend as much time as you like sitting with an outstanding tyer and learn the best skills!

Breakfast begins fairly early with the early risers! It just so happens that one East Texan prepares mouth watering pancakes for everyone or at least until the chow line dies out. Eggs of all sorts start while some fantastic breakfast dishes pop out of the over and disappear fast. This is not for the faint of heart, as they say. If you snooze you lose! Late risers will have to fend for themselves or find the crumbs!

Cooking for lunch begins right after breakfast and kitchen cleanup. It is a real treat to see a clean kitchen evolve over and over! All the busy hands make these tasks a joy - not a task. Around noontime, the aroma from the kitchen forces mouths to water and lines to form.

Then comes dinner! In the past we have had some delightful surprises with fresh Alaskan silver and red salmon cooked in several ways, barbequed chickens and sausages from the outdoor pit, Cajun dishes of all sorts, 96 quart coolers of fresh steamed crabs on ice ready for cracking. Some usual treats are spaghetti and meat balls that are out of this world, chili, sandwiches, special salads and too many other items to detail here. Just let it be said that if you have taste buds, you will be totally satisfied!

Some of the strange slang and accents you will hear during your weekend come from the fact that clubs gather from all over! Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and we have had them from Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Children have a safe place to play because the cove of the lake is at least a hundred yards down hill from the bunkhouses. That means fishing! Wading, float tubes, kayaks and canoes are the order of the day. No Louisiana license is required for Texans. Of course, fishing is a minor thing to most because all the fun is in the main hall all day or out in the parking lot where expert fly casters practice and show off their new rods and reels. Another opportunity to learn something by just squeezing in and joining the conversations. It won't take long before you will be handed a rod to test out. You might just find a new fiberglass rod that outcasts graphite!

Now to planning! Bring bed sheets or a sleeping bag, pillows and blankets if you need it. The beds are quite comfortable and the bunkhouses are very clean. Bring your bath items with your toothbrush. We don't care if you don't shave but combing the hair is a must. Don't worry about bringing eating necessities, we now provide paper plates, bowls, cups, plastic ware, napkins and all the kitchen cleaning items. No need for any cooking items unless you need something special like a blender, crock pot or food processor. Everything a commercial kitchen can have is provided by the park service. -Walter McLendon

## Freshwater Fly of the Month

### Scud



**Hook:** 12 to 18 long shank curved  
**Body:** 10 lb. test nylon monofilament  
**Eyes:** 25 lb. test nylon monofilament melted to form a bead chain  
**Scud Back:** Translucent floro film from craft store  
**Thread:** light orange  
**Whiskers/horns:** Florescent Chartreuse hackle fibers, with 2 strands Krystal flash  
**Ribs:** Bright red thread  
**Legs/ gills:** Crystal Ice Dub  
**Back cover:** 4 coats of Sally's Hard as Nails Nail Polish

Note: The tail is the eye of the hook. Head is at the bend.

**Tying Instructions:** This good looking scud imitation is from Jimi Genzling, a New Mexico fly fisher, most often pursuing panfish. This fly should do equally well for panfish and trout, as both types of fish like to feed on scuds. Attach the thread at the eye of the hook and wind to the bend. Add the whiskers/horns of fluorescent chartreuse saddle hackle fibers and two strands of Krystal flash. Then tie in the eyes made from melted 25 lb. Test mono. Wrap the body of 10 lb. test mono and tie off at the eye. Trim any excess mono. Return the thread to the head of the scud (at the bend of the hook!) Tie in the Crystal Ice dub and wrap to the eye of the hook, leaving a sizable gap between winds. Trim the Crystal Ice dub so that the material is pointing down to form the gills/legs. Switch to red colored thread and tie in a scud back of floro film (a colored thin plastic film available in some craft stores. If not available find a thin plastic film that will make a regional approximation. You may have to experiment with coloring with Pantone pens to get the color you desire.) Attach the scud back to the fly using the thread and using the red thread to represent a rib. Whip finish at the eye of the hook. Apply several coats of Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails to the scud back. After the Sally Hansen's is dry, your fly is finished.

**Fishing tip:** Cast this fly near vegetation, since

that's where scuds like to hang out. Hopefully a fish will think that this scud has wandered a little too far from safety.

## Saltwater Fly of the Month

### Redfish Chili



**Hook:** #2 Mustad 3407 or 34007  
**Thread:** Red 3/0  
**Eyes:** Ni plated lead dumbbell eyes  
**Tail:** Russet Marabou  
**Body:** Copper metallic canvas yarn  
**Hackle:** Orange saddle hackle

**Instructions:** First bend the eye end of the hook shank (at about 3/8-1/2") toward the hookpoint to make a 60 degree angle with the rest of the hook shank. Then just at the straight part of the hook shank attach the dumbbell eyes. Advance the thread to the bend of the hook, and tie in the tail of russet marabou. Attach the orange saddle hackle at the bend of the hook, then attach the copper metallic canvas yarn for the body material. Return the thread to just behind the dumbbell eyes. Wrap the body of copper metallic canvas yarn and tie off and trim any excess. Then palmer the orange saddle hackle over the body to just behind the eyes, tie off and trim. Return the thread toward the eye of the hook and make a neat head and tie off finishing the fly. Add head cement to the wrappings.

**Presentation Tips:** This fly is a color variation of the chili pepper, resized for redfish. The fly is designed to be used in the marshes of southwest Louisiana. The bend in the hook shank allows the end of the fly to stand up from the bottom and be noticed. The fly is used mainly in sightfishing situations, cast ahead of the redfish, and either retrieved not at all, slowly, or with very small hops.



## Calendar

- Oct 20-2 The Camp Fly Fishing School, Breaux Bridge, LA  
Oct22 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg.,  
Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
Oct 25 NOFF Mtg., 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441  
Metairie Road, Metairie LA  
Oct 29 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA  
Nov 2-4 North Toledo Bend Rendezvous, North Toledo Bend  
State Park, Zwolle, LA.  
Nov 6 AFR Mtg., 7 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 415  
Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA  
Nov10 NLFF Banquet, 5:30 pm, Ralph and Kacoo's,  
Shreveport, LA,  
Nov 10 RSFF Fall Catch and Eat, Hwy 1 corridor, south of  
Galliano, LA  
Nov 12 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail  
Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
Nov 20 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA  
Nov 20 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 p m R o d  
Building class, 7 pm meeting Room 201, 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>

**A l t e r n a t e w e b s i t e :**  
<http://cbfc0.tripod.com/index2.htm>