

September 2007

# Contraband

## Fly Casters

Tom Nixon Chapter

September meeting: Tuesday September 18, 2007 Room 201, Kirkman Hall on the McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA. Rod building class 6:00 pm, regular meeting 7:00 pm

### Vice President's Message

I haven't been fishing much lately, being very busy with work, attending a memorial service for a dear friend and for the past four days confined to bed with a sinus infection. Additionally this evening I've been listening to the predictions for lots of rain due to tropical storm Humberto (and trying to figure out if McNeese is really closed tomorrow or not). So I definitely will not be fishing tomorrow, save possibly in my backyard. (The puddle has not yet quite dried up from rains this weekend.)

Fortunately there are lots of things to look forward to coming up. Some I'll make others I won't. October 5, 6 in Mountain Home, AR is the FFF Southern Council conclave (I can't make that one). On October 13 is the Salt Water Fly Fishers Picnic hosted by Urban Angler of New Orleans at Woodland plantation (I plan on making that one.) The next event is Oktoberfisch held on October 19-21 at Morgan Shady Park at the Llano River Junction. For more information either e-

mail [oktoberfisch@hotmail.com](mailto:oktoberfisch@hotmail.com) or phone 830/997-8881 or 830/997-8388. I'll be coaching a Special Olympics softball team that weekend. The next event is the North Toledo Bend Rendezvous November 2-4 at North Toledo Bend State Park. I hope to attend that event as well. So there is plenty of events to look forward to this fall, even if I don't get out to fish too much.

Members of the rod building class will be happy to know that their kits consisting of blank, handle and reel seat have arrived. A few of you will have a decision to make (there was still a bit of a mix up on orders, but we have plenty of kits and a fairly wide choice). More of that in the next section.

I haven't heard anything new about the proposed open loop LNG plant off the Alabama. Hopefully this proposal will suffer the same fate as other open loop proposals and die.

Mark Delaney

## Rod Building Class News

The rod kits have arrived and there will be three of you will have a few decisions to make. One of the rod kits we were told wasn't available, there was one kit available, so David Stewart and Tom Ashe will have to decide who gets that particular blank Jim Gill's rod kit, which we were told was available, was not, but we have a wide choice of other kits on hand. Everyone else will receive the rod kits they ordered.

The blanks are a very dark (nearly black) charcoal grey, for those of you planning thread colors for your rod.

At this month's class we will demonstrate how to find the spline of each section of your rod, demonstrate how to mount the handle and reel seat, and look at available hardware for your rod (tip top, guides, winding check, hook keeper). You may wish to bring a handle reamer or rat tail file to fit your handle, some masking tape (1/2 inch wide old brown type or drywall fiberglass mesh tape) and some five minute epoxy (and something to mix your epoxy with). We will be meeting in Kirkman 201, which is a large room with lots of elbow room.

## Fishing Report

Fishing? Don't ask me about too much, It's been several weeks since I've been fishing. I did have a long conversation with Ron Begnaud, (now cleared to fish again by his doctors) who said there were fair numbers of redfish on the flats. Reports of fair numbers of speckled trout in Calcasieu Lake are still being heard (mainly early in the mornings). Saltwater fishing may be disturbed for a few days depending on how much rain Humberto dumps on the area. I have not heard too many fresh

water fishing reports.

Temperatures have begun to cool off a bit. As the temperature cools, we can expect bull reds to start coming closer to the beaches and some larger trout to move inshore. Later this fall (think November and December) flounder will begin their annual migration back to the Gulf of Mexico, during which they are good targets for fishing. Lots of fishing opportunities to look forward to this fall.

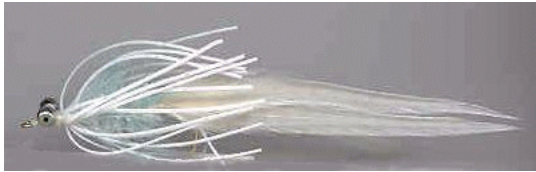
## FFF Membership Drive

The Federation of Fly Fishers membership drive for new members is continuing. First time members (sorry no renewals) can join the FFF for \$15 until December 31, 2007. That's a discount of \$20 from the normal \$35 price. We are an affiliate club of the FFF aligned with the Gulf Coast Council (currently a subcouncil of the Southern Council, but applying for full council status this fall). As an affiliate club we pay \$100 per year plus \$2.00 for each non-FFF member. We do not require FFF membership to be a member of the Contraband Fly Casters, thus we function as an affiliate club. To see all the benefits of being an FFF member, please see the FFF website at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>. We'll have all the necessary forms at our September meeting for those wishing to take advantage of this offer.



## Freshwater Fly of the Month

### Albino Serpent



**Hook:** Straight eye, heavy wire

**Tail:** 6-8 long, narrow, white or cream saddle hackles

**Body:** Light blue chenille (this example uses aqua ice chenille)

**Hackle:** White saddle hackle palmered over light blue chenille (omitted for ice chenille)

**Collar:** White rubber hackle

**Head:** White thread

**Eyes:** Large bead chain

**Tying Instructions:** If this fly seems reminiscent of a Calcasieu Pigboat, it should this is another Tom Nixon bass fly. This particular example was tied by Joe Cornwall of Cincinnati, Ohio. (It is well worth visiting Joe's Fly Fish Ohio site at <http://www.flyfishohio.com>, since it has 21 step by step articles on different flies in the fly tying section.) Insert the hook in the vise and using the white thread attach the large bead chain eyes to the hook shank using figure eight wraps. Wind the thread to the bend of the hook. Tie four to six white saddle hackles in at the bend of the hook. Tie in a white saddle hackle by the tip at the bend and then tie in a piece of light blue chenille (if you are using aqua ice chenille you can skip the hackle tied in by the tip if you so desire). Wrap the chenille just short of the bead chain eyes, tie off and trim any excess chenille. Then palmer the white hackle over the chenille body, tie the hackle off and trim. Tie in the white rubber hackle as a collar just behind the eyes, then advance the thread to ahead of the eyes and tie off using a whip finish. Add head cement.

## Saltwater Fly of the Month

### Velcro Minnow



**Hook:** Mustad 92611, #2 to 1/0, offset straightened

**Tail:** Marabou

**Body:** Two pieces of soft side of Velcro sandwiching hook shank, trimmed to minnow shape

**Eyes:** Adhesive 3D-eyes

**Wing:** 4 to six peacock herls

**Rattle (optional);** Glass worm rattle sandwiched between Velcro above hook shank

**Tying Instructions:** Sandwich hook shank (and rattle, if desired) between two pieces of the soft side of Velcro. Then trim the Velcro to a minnow shape using very sharp scissors. If white Velcro is used, it can easily be colored with Prisma color or Sharpie. After decorating the body. Place the fly in the vise and attach a tail of marabou. Tie off and coat the windings here with head cement. Attach the thread at the head of the fly and tie in a wing of 4 to 6 peacock herls. Tie off with a whip finish and coat the windings with head cement.

This fly is a slow sinker being slightly heavier than the water as the Velcro soaks up water. The fly will sit perfectly level in the water. Any action to the fly has to be imparted by the retrieve...short strips and darts, pauses, etc. to mimic a preyfish in trouble.

## Calendar

- Sep 18 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA  
Sep 18 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 p m r o d  
buildiong class, 7 pm meeting, Room 204, Kirkman  
Hall, McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA  
Sep 24 RSFF Fly Tying, 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg.,  
Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
Sep 24 ORFF Mtg., 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA  
Sep 27 NOFF Mtg., 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg, 1441  
Metairie Road, Metairie LA  
Oct 2 AFR Mtg., 7 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 415  
Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA  
Oct 5-6 FFF Southern Council Conclave, Mountain Home,  
AR  
Oct 8 RSFF Mtg., 7 pm, Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg., Quail  
Dr., Baton Rouge, LA  
Oct 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salt Water Fly Fishers Picnic at  
Woodland Plantation, LA  
Oct 16 NLFF Mtg., 7 pm, Camp Forbing, LA  
Oct 16 Contraband Fly Casters Meeting 6 pm tying, 7 pm  
meeting Room ???, 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>