

Gulf Coast Council



Federation of Fly Fishers

Sea to Stream



Volume 2 Issue 2, Apr. 2008, of the newsletter of the Gulf Coast Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual GCC Expo May 16-17, 2008



The second annual Gulf Coast Expo of the GCC-FFF will be held May 16-17, 2008 at the Lake Charles Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Headliners will include Nick Curcione, Bruce Richards, Tim Borski, and Mark Sedotti. Nick Curcione is internationally recognized as an outdoor writer, instructor, lecturer and tackle consultant with over 40 years of angling experience. He has authored three fly fishing books –The Orvis Guide to Saltwater Fly Fishing, Baja On The Fly, and Tug-O-War, A Fly Fishers Game plus numerous articles that have been published worldwide. Nick is also a member of the TFO advisory staff. Bruce Richards has been called "the most influential fly fisherman most anglers have never heard of," long-time Scientific Anglers product engineer Bruce Richards has been named the 2007 Angler of the Year by editors at Fly Rod & Reel magazine. He is a fly line and casting expert who has helped develop many fly lines. Tim Borski is a noted fly tier and artist. This comment from Flip Pallot says it all: "Tim Borski is without question the most imaginative tyer of fish food on planet earth." Mark Sedotti is a professional angler, writer and instructor, and has fished all over North America. He is known as the "Casting Doctor." He is best known for saltwater fishing in the northeast of the U.S.

Other featured happenings include workshops, programs, various fly tying and rod vendors, and over 70 demonstration fly tiers over the two days, raffles, a crawfish boil on the evening of Friday May 16 and a banquet and auction on the evening of Saturday May 17.

More details on registration, workshops, fly tiers, hotels, RV parks, etc., are available on the the Gulf Coast Council web page at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org>

under the "Expo 2008" tab.

Online registration is available at the Gulf Coast Council website at the Expo 2008 webpage at <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=Expo-2008> The online registration includes a \$2.00 processing fee. A mail-in registration form is also available on the same webpage and will be sent in the same e-mail as this newsletter. (Links to registration materials are also on the GCC newsletter page.) Make your plans to attend this great event now!!

(Due to unexpected developments, Nick Curcione might not be able to make it to the Expo, since he will be recovering from surgery. We will try to get a replacement for his workshops if necessary).

## Conservation Update

On April 1, 2008 FFF's Conservation Committee, made up of the 11 Vice Presidents of Conservation for FFF's 11 councils will have their monthly conference call. At that time I will invite all of the VPs and Leah Ewell, FFF's Conservation Coordinator to attend our 2008 EXPO in Lake Charles. I will also report on the progress of the restocking of several thousand fingerlings of Guadalupe small mouth bass, (the state fish of Texas), in to the Guadalupe river. You will recall that we the GCC received a \$1.500 conservation Grant last year from the FFF for this work. Looking ahead to a financial successful GCC 2008 EXPO, I would like to put a conservation request in for some GCC conservation dollars to fund two conservation grants in the GCC home waters, the first warm water, additional funds for the Guadalupe small mouth bass stocking program, and second saltwater, for funds to LSU Fisheries research on the tarpon life history research that is finding baby tarpon spending part of their life cycle in some of the waters east of Houma. If we have any conservation funds available after our 2008 EXPO, please consider funds for these two conservation projects. Fishing report: Went down to the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge last week and managed to catch one nice spec. See you all in Lake Charles!

*Bob Tabbert, VP Conservation GCC and member of the Acadiana Fly Rodders of Lafayette, LA.*

## FFF and Boy Scouts of America Come to Agreement

The FFF and the Boy Scouts of America have come to an agreement as detailed by the letter sent out to the FFF councils by R. P. Van Gytenbeek:  
April 2, 2008 R.P. Van Gytenbeek, CEO

To: Council & Club President's, BOD, SR Advisors

From: Van

Subject: Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

The Federation has recently entered into a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the BSA. The Scouts have also provided us with a manual to help us understand their structure and to facilitate our working together at all levels of their organization. This office will send a copy to each council for copying and distribution. If you are not part of a council, please send your requests for a copy directly to Livingston.

At the time of signing the BSA announced a commitment by their Venture Scouts (ages 14-20) to perform ONE MILLION HOURS of work to improve American's waterways during 2009. So here is an open invitation to set-up joint programs with the BSA. For instance, an adopt-a-stream program in your area would be a great place to start.

As always, send your questions, requests etc. to me here in Livingston.

Sincerely,

R.P. Van Gytenbeek

This agreement looks like a great opportunity for FFF member clubs to team up with local Boy Scout/Venture Scouts on stream restoration/clean ups, etc. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work."

## PURISTS VERSUS THE BLUEGILL

Fly fishing purists are a joy to be around. Not because of their witty repartee, or their cutting edge insight, or their intra-fisherman social graces and streamside fashion sense, but because fly fishing should be a happy occasion. Purists make you laugh.

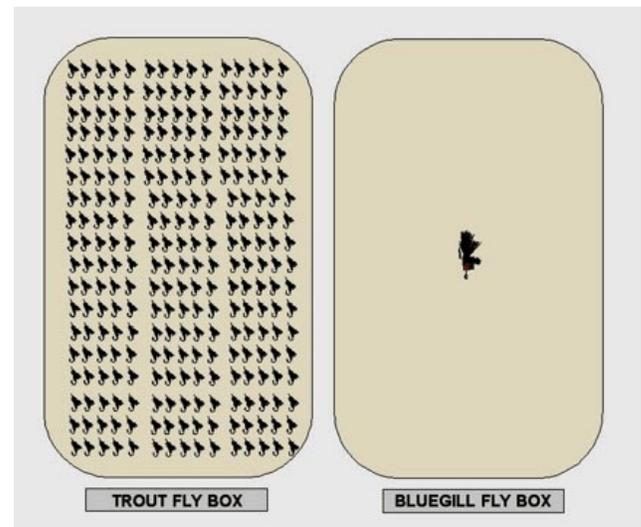
Consider the lowly bluegill, one of the fish world's great survivors, a spunky fighter, a staple for a healthy bass population, a unique and spectacular breeder, and the bane of purists. The state of Maine (where they think good coffee is the color of tea) considers bluegill to be an exotic and dangerous species, officially referring to the spread of the bluegill population as an "epidemic." It seems the bluegill's aggressive and prolific nature threatens Maine's native brook trout. Even though bluegill are most active in Maine only 3-4

months out of the year, they are said to cause irreversible changes to entire aquatic ecosystems by restructuring plankton and forage fish communities, and because strategies to eliminate or control bluegill are difficult to design and implement, and almost entirely ineffective. Bluegill are tough.

In Japan's Lake Biwa, a new bluegill population threatens native carp and eels and the Japanese, who are particularly good at killing (and eating) anything that swims (no dolphin-free tuna there), can't kill out our favorite panfish. Bluegill are resilient.

In South Africa, where apartheid apparently still applies to fish, the bluegill is considered an "alien invader" and has put 15 indigenous fish species on the road to extinction because of bluegill predation on fish fry and invertebrate food for native species. Bluegill overcome.

Fly fishing purists consider trout and salmon the only respectable freshwater game fish. For some reason, a fish that can't survive in water hotter than 58° doesn't seem all that remarkable. Admittedly, ice fishing is merely an excuse to drink beer, but while some bluegill are caught below the ice, others can be found in the hottest waters of the tropics. Bluegill are a hardy breed.



Consider also that trout and salmon spawn in redds on rare occasions. Bluegill romance in a bed at least annually and with different partners. Trout are often caught on soft rods with a size 24 fly on 7X tippet and must be handled very delicately to survive on release. Bluegill get downright belligerent with anything smaller than a size 10 on 6lb. test and managed to live to breed again with a hooked-out eye or gill plate. Trout are measured in inches because hanging them on a scale is gauche. Bluegill are measured in how many filets to a plateful. Purists clean foreign materials off of their waders before they enter a trout stream. Bluegill fishermen change from their snake-proof boots to grease-from-the-truckbed coated hip boots before challenging a gator for best spot on the bayou. Trout fishermen concentrate their fishing times around insect

hatches. Bluegill fishermen just buy **DEET**. Purists are enraptured by the beauty of the nature and the environment around them. Bluegill fishermen figure if it's not wet it's not worth watching. A purist's vest looks like he shoplifted FeatherCraft. A bluegill fisherman uses whatever fits in bluejean pockets. A purist may carry hundreds of flies in dozens of patterns. A bluegill fisherman carries what worked yesterday. Trout and salmon must live in clear streams. Bluegill thrive in anything wet. Purists start fishing when they have disposable income. Bluegill fishermen attach a rod to the stroller. A purist buys a license and permit, reads stream reports and hatch charts, hires a guide and complains about stream access but honors Posted signs. A bluegill sherman downs a case of beer with the pond owner before filling his ice chest with bigguns. A purist won't drive his Navigator down a dusty woods road. A bluegill fisherman made the road pushing down trees with his front bumper. A purist is committed to a favorite rod. A bluegill fisherman uses the one with the tip that wasn't broken in the pickup door. A purist stakes out his beat on a stream and glares at intruders. A bluegill fisherman shows you where he's catching fish and what to cast there.

Bluegill fishermen require only one good fly, but look in the bluegill fisherman's jeans pocket and you might find as many as five patterns because every yesterday might be just a little different. What you might see are:

- 1) Poppers. Cork, foam or balsa doesn't matter, if it floats, it's fish food.
- 2) Sponge spiders. Bluegill don't care what it looks like, it might be a bug, so eat it.
- 3) Soft hackles. It takes a lot of little bugs for a meal so bluegill eat them all.
- 4) Chenille flies. Colored, variegated, fat, slim or woven, bluegill see them and think snack time.
- 5) Terrestrials. Ants, beetles and hoppers – when the wind blows the menu does too.

If you don't have a fly that works, ask a bluegill fisherman to borrow one, but don't be surprised if what you get is a bit chewed up and eaten on. Remember, you asked for what works.



*Bob Boese, president and member of the Acadiana Fly Rodders of Lafayette, LA.*

## Request for Auction & Raffle Items for GCC Expo 2008

Dear GCCFFF Fly Fishers and Friends:

Last year as our conclave date approached, we very much afraid we had bitten off more than we could chew financially. But, thanks to your generosity in donating to our Auctions/Raffles (A/R) program, and thanks to the attendance response the conclave received, we did well financially.

This has allowed us to shoot for the same excellence in programming for our upcoming conclave in Lake Charles, May 16 and 17. It will also allow us to initiate our plans for activities in the fields of education and conservation, so vital to the FFF and our legacy to the sport we love so much. It has also validated all the very hard work put in by all tyers, vendors, organizers, and speakers who gave so unselfishly of their time to make the conclave what it was.

Please understand that this is always a work in progress. If we let down for a minute, we will head quickly in the other direction. The same exact effort is required for our upcoming conclave and is underway as we speak.

So, please continue to support the GCC-FFF. We need your contributions to A/R and we need your presence at our conclave. Please consider the donation of boxes of flies, articles of artwork, books, clothing, rods, reels, and miscellaneous articles of interest to fly fishermen. Essentially anything would be helpful.

Please contact me or Robert Peet (addresses below). Remember we are now a 501 C (3) organization, and your donations are tax deductible (you set the value of your donation for tax purposes – it is not valued at the price for which it sells).

Donations may be sent directly to me at my office address (I will send you a receipt immediately detailing what was contributed), or can be given to me or Robert at the conclave (we'll be there from May 15th on). But, in any case, please email or call us and let us know what you are donating, so it can be placed on the spreadsheet for proper allocation to the various forms of A/R. That will really help our planning.

Please dig deep.

A/R GCCFFF

Sincerely,

Syd Smith, Co-VP Events, Chair A/R  
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and

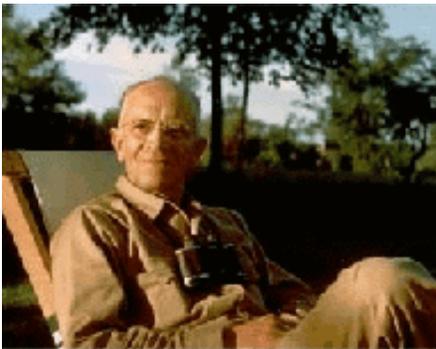
Robert Peet, Co-Chair A/R  
Email: rjpeet@comcast.net  
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## A NEW ENVIRONMENTALIST – On My Soapbox



Fly fishers are the true environmentalists.

You don't have to be old as dirt to remember when only about six people ever heard of the fly fisherman Aldo Leopold. Who? See what I mean.

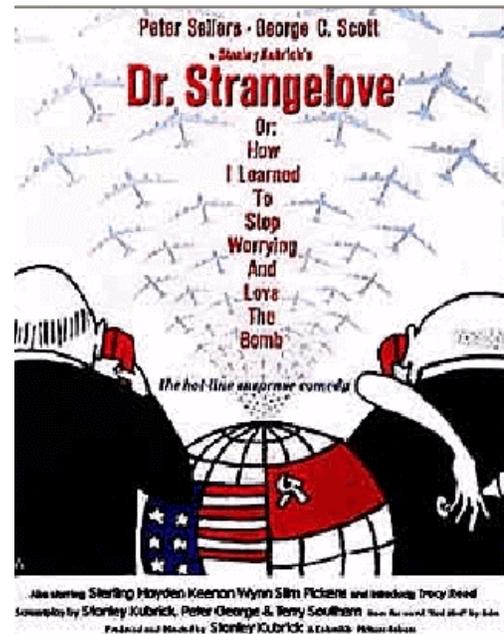


In the 50s (had we ever heard of him) we would have called him a “conservationist,” which is not an insult, for he was an ardent angler and hunter who had a master of forestry degree from Yale University and worked for the Forest Service. Leopold first wrote *Game Management* (1933) in which he discussed preserving natural resources through a combination of silviculture/forestry, agriculture, biology/zoology, ecology, and education. He later wrote his most famous essays (published posthumously in 1949 see [A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There](#), Oxford University Press, New York 1949, reprinted in [Round River](#), Oxford University Press, New York 1987) in which he recognized that there was an ecological crisis even then and that it had philosophical roots. Like Emerson and Thoreau, he spent a lot of time with a fishing rod in his hands and used his time on the streams as an opportunity to contemplate his surroundings. Environmental problems were arising, he said, because of how people thought of their environment. His essays addressed a wide spectrum of environmental issues such as the death of a species, a land ethic and conservation His “land ethic” sounds as if it could be extremist-speak, but it simply enlarged the boundaries of the global community we all share to include soils, waters, plants, and animals – collectively:

the land. Here's how he put it:

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. By land is meant all of the things on, over, or in the land....The land is one organism. Its parts, like our own parts, compete with each other and cooperate with each other. The competitions are as much a part of the inner workings as the co-operations. You can regulate them – cautiously – but not abolish them....If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.”

In other words, don't go killing and spoiling everything, just because you can.



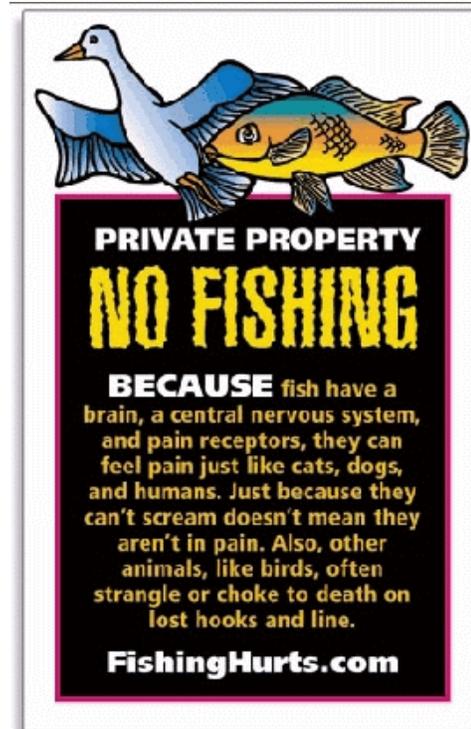
In the 50s and 60s most Americans didn't think about the year 2008, except in terms of what sci-fi predicted, like flying cars and robot butlers and surviving World War III. Killing things and spoiling nature were more a way of life than a life style choice. Trophy hunting, especially big game, was envied, and catching or shooting only what you could eat was rarely a consideration. Catch and release meant you needed a better District Attorney, and a wetlands was some swamp that needed to be reclaimed before it spawned monsters with an appetite for buxom blondes. Curiously, deer tags were scarcer than they are today, but that was because without them there would have been wholesale slaughter. A bad day on Pecan Island was less than thirty ducks a man. Two or three hundred Spanish mackerel per fisherman in Lake Pontchartrain was just average. It was the same mentality that led some neo-barbarians to arrange cock and dog fights. Today the politically correct description of these activities is “repugnant” or “horrid” or “despicable” or...you get the idea. But (except maybe for the dog fighting) we didn't think of any of it as wrong. It was just

how things were...sort of like bar brawls and bordellos in St. Landry Parish. And no one had heard of Leopold. Of course, when Leopold's essays were reprinted in 1987, they took on a whole new meaning to the left-wing bleeding-heart knee-jerk ultra-liberal tree-hugging bunny-kissing pinkos. Suddenly, non-humans were as valuable as humans, and hunters and fishermen were evil incarnate. Federal agencies (minions-of-the-socialist-devil), got tired of respecting private property, suddenly made it a life's goal to eat away at the fabric of the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment (not *that* part, the property rights part: "No person shall... be deprived of...property...without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.) for the good of the environment.

*Thibeaux died and found himself in the presence of Satan. The great devil spoke in a voice that had terrified countless generations. "You are damned!" the devil yelled ...and Thibeaux yawned. Beelzebub turned himself into his most horrifying countenance and yelled again "Kneel before me weak mortal!" ...and Thibeaux crossed his arms and sighed ...and Thibeaux crossed his arms and sighed distractedly. The Prince of Darkness got down from his brimstone throne and threatened Thibeaux with a huge fiery trident. "Eternal torture awaits you, man!" ...Thibeaux shook his head and "tsk-tsked." "You must fear me!" Lucifer demanded. "Why don't you fear me?" Thibeaux looked up at Old Nick and answered, "because I've been married to your sister for 35 years and she does it much better than you."*

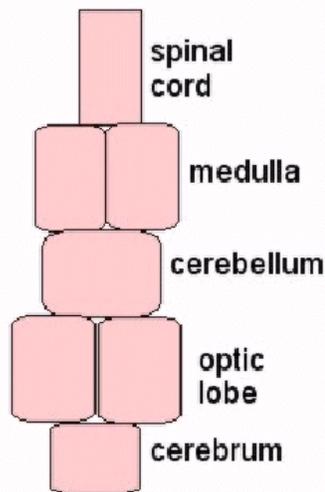
Extremist groups like PETA have gained popularity among the leftist media and socially elite crowd, because the liberal press and social sycophants either don't know any better, or do and are trying to force their own moral code on the rest of us. In the 50s we called that sort of thing the red menace. In the 70s, the bunny-kissers started using a word which, if we had ever heard of it at all, we had only heard teachers use in a grammatical context – paradigm. Now this perfectly good word used to mean something that was little more than "a typical example of word forms," but...when the new "environmentalists" saw that a "shift" was possible, the term became to mean a change from the old ways to what they saw as *right thinking*. Right thinking? Oh yes, the "paradigm shift" meant all Americans should be thinking, believing, expressing, espousing and mandating the bunny-kissers' opinions – without the need for scientific explanation. Thus arose a new breed – the environmental "ethicist." For the most part, these are self proclaimed experts (although some are actually degreed in ethical philosophy) on morals and rightness. Curiously, to be an environmental ethicist, your view of ethics must conform to the code of right thinking. Conservatives and sportsmen don't qualify.

Which brings us back to fishing. PETA hates fishing and would ban it everywhere. Their reason (other than their pleasure in taking away something you enjoy) is that it is painful to fish. [To see some typical PETA anti-fishing propoganda go to <http://www.fishinghurts.com/angling.asp> .]



**Fact:** fish do not feel pain. The neocortex of the human cerebral hemispheres is responsible for our ability to experience emotions and sensations such as pain. The existence of this feature in the fish brain would strengthen a PETA argument for the ability of fish to experience pain. It would... **if** fish had this anatomical component. Instead, the fish brain is dominated by brainstem components and features very primitive cerebral hemispheres that lack the neocortex. Dr. James Rose of the University of Wyoming has explained the distinction between reaction to injury and psychological experience of pain and emphasizes that the existence of the former does not evidence the existence of the latter. Sensation of and reaction to noxious, or potentially harmful, stimuli can and does occur without the experience of pain.





This is hard for humans to understand because pain is so familiar to us. Reaction with or without pain is related to “nociception.” Nociception refers to the detection of noxious stimuli by the nervous system. Certain nervous system receptors – nociceptors – sense unpleasant stimuli and report to the central nervous system where motor responses are initiated and the sensation of pain is perceived. That is, when damage happens somewhere on your body, appropriate signals are sent to your brain which translates these into pain. While some fish have nociceptors, this only means that they are capable of sensing noxious stimuli. Damage to fish causes a signal that produces a sensory reaction but the fish has no neocortex to translate the signal into pain. Voila! There is no scientific evidence for fish to have the psychological experience of pain. No more discussion necessary, right? Not for PETA.

Want to walk in PETAs shoes? Okay, first you have to forget science. Now, you must do some right thinking, that is, rationalize that while fish have a different system of nociception and brain function from mammals and don't actually experience the precise sensation of pain that humans do, this does not mean that fish are incapable of experiencing a *negative psychological state* analogous to human pain in response to noxious stimuli. Yes, fish experience discomfort and fear, so you must interpolate this as psychological trauma. And, because you want to, you call this response “pain”.

Confused yet? Then pay attention fish-hurter-person! PETA wants you to assume that because fish have instinctive reactions to avoid being damaged or dinner, the fish convert this negative stimuli into an unpleasant psychological state that is equivalent to pain. It may not actually be pain, but it's something, soooo...it must be pain. Then (and here's where you need a fish whisperer) because there is no hard evidence that the neuro-physiology of fish supports a pain reaction (as humans perceive pain) the pinko-you must quietly slip

past the scientific evidence part and *assume* what you want to be true is, in fact, true. Unfortunately, as Felix Unger proved, when you assume you make an “ass” of “u” and “me”.



Today's fly fishermen are true environmentalists. Catch and release is now habitual and rarely are predator species taken for food. Gaffing and stringers are history and modern texts do not refer to catching as “killing” (which was the common term in classic British fishing tomes). By and large, fly fishermen have an ethical code of which Leopold would approve. Leopold wrote of wasteful activities as follows:

“Voluntary adherence to an ethical code elevates the self-respect of the sportsman, but it should not be forgotten that voluntary disregard of the code degenerates and depraves him. For example, a common denominator of all sporting codes is not to waste good meat. Yet it is now a demonstrable fact that Wisconsin deer-hunters, in their pursuit of a legal buck, kill and abandon in the woods at least one doe, fawn, or spike buck for every two legal bucks taken out. In other words, approximately half the hunters shoot any deer until a legal deer is killed. The illegal carcasses are left where they fall. Such deer-hunting is not only without social value, but constitutes actual training for ethical depravity elsewhere.”

It may not be solely because we are fly fishers, but you don't hear about serial killers garroting victims with WF8F, or terrorists trading in their fly vests for dynamite jackets, or zealots highjacking planes with nippers. Neither do we destroy the resources we cherish and we proudly support rescue and rehabilitation efforts for species and waterways. Leopold was recently the subject of an exhibition produced by the American Museum of Fly Fishing (California) and the Aldo Leopold Nature Center (Wisconsin) proudly holds fishing events in the Leopold pond. Fly fishers are true environmentalists. Consider that the FFF Code of Ethics explains:

***Fly anglers strive to understand and practice the land ethic of Aldo Leopold, which extends ethical consideration to the land, plants, animals, fish, and water that comprise the entire ecosystem. An important part of this land ethic is that fly anglers support those programs that sustain high species diversity, and do not support policies that could cause***

*the premature extinction of another species. The Native Fish Policy of the Federation of Fly Fishers is based on this ethic of preventing fish species extinction.*

Aldo Leopold, father of wildlife ecology and hero of the modern environmentalist, loved fly fishing. PETA will never understand....because they don't want to.

*Bob Boese, president and member of Acadiana Fly Rodders of Lafayette, LA.*

## Club Bits

**Acadiana Fly Rodders** (Lafayette, LA) - The Acadiana Fly Rodders will hold their annual conclave on Saturday April 5, 2008. There were lots of fly tiers, casting instruction from CCIs, and programs, a raffle and a silent auction. That evening the annual banquet was held.

**Alamo Fly Fishers** (San Antonio, TX) - The March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting featured member Ron Alvin speaking on fly fishing for white bass. March 20 - 23<sup>rd</sup> featured the club's David Young Memorial White Bass Outing at Colorado Bend State Park.

**Austin Fly Fishers** (Austin, TX) - the March meeting featured Captain Dean Thomas of Slowride Guide Services speaking on the kayak-fishing available at Lighthouse Lakes. The April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature casting expert Al Crise.

**Contraband Fly Casters** (Lake Charles, LA) - The Contraband Fly Casters have held two fishing events thus far this year. One at Sam Houston Jones State Park on February 23, fishing the ponds, and another March 15 at member Fred Hannie's pond. Both outings were successful, with bluegill being landed at the first, and a combination of bluegill and bass at the second. The next fishing outing will be held May 3 at Lacassine Refuge and will be a bank fishing outing/tournament. The fly tying portions of the monthly meetings thus far have concentrated on tying techniques as demonstrated by various members. The March fly tying session will be a bit different, however. It will be a materials/hook swap for those materials you don't want to use (or inadvertently bought two or three times...). Other activities include preparations for the GCC Expo May 16-17 in Lake Charles.

**Hill Country Fly Fishers** (Kerrville, TX) - The March meeting presentation was by guide Robert Creede, Colorado on the excellent fishing near the headwaters of the Rio Grande River.

**Panhandle Flyfishers** (Destin, FL) - The club remains very active. They are also having a rod building program this spring.

**Redstick Fly Fishers** (Baton Rouge, LA) - The Redstick Fly Fishers held their annual Redstick Day on March 8 which featured Nick Curcione, Terry and Roxanne Wilson and Pete Cooper, Jr., as well as demo fly tiers, raffles, etc. Twice a year, our club dedicates meetings to the educational needs of members. The next meeting on April 14 is such a meeting. Wannabes, novices, or even experienced flyrodders who want to learn more about various aspects of our sport, or just when and where to fish for various species, are highly encouraged to attend. The program will feature demonstrations on fly tying, leader and line preparation and other fly riggings, rod and reel combinations, maps and fishing locations and casting techniques and pointers, kayak rigging and such. We will set up tables around the room to accomplish this. Also, our warmwater and saltwater chairmen will be available to discuss the upcoming Lake Concordia (Apr 25-27) and "Catch and Eat" (weekend of May 31) trips.

**San Gabriel Fly Fishers** (Georgetown, TX) - The January meeting featured a DVD presentation on stream insects and habitat with underwater footage. The February meeting presentation was by Alvin Dedeaux speaking on trout fishing in the Guadalupe River. The March meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Gary Garrett, Director of TPWD Heart of Texas Research Station in Ingram, outside of Kerrville. He spoke about the attempts to preserve the pure strain of Guadalupe bass and avoid hybridization. The April meeting featured a DVD presentation entitled "Why Fly Fishing?" examining reasons the reasons fly anglers get satisfaction from their preferred fishing method. The DVD featured many prominent fly anglers and authors such as Joan Wulff, Nick Lyons, Flip Pallot, John Gierach, etc.

**Texas Fly Fishers** (Houston, TX) - The Texas Fly Tying Festival was held February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bethany Christian Church in Houston. It featured over 50 tyers and had over 120 attendees. The 2008 Sunfish Spectacular will take place on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at Damon's Seven Lakes. Thanks go to Mike Arnold who has once again agreed to host the club at his great fishery. We will start at 8.00 and you can fish as long (or as short) as you wish. The fee is \$40.00 for TFF members, lunch included (hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken) as well as drinks during the day. The Sunfish spectacular has only a few rules. The member that catches the longest sunfish is awarded a trophy at the next club meeting and gets to display that trophy in a prominent spot in their home for a year. And, since bass are part of the sunfish family we will acknowledge the club member that catches the longest bass. For measurement we rely on the honor system. Bank fishing is plentiful or you may bring a kayak, canoe, pontoon boat, or float tube although they are not necessary. The lakes contain bass, sunfish, tilapia, catfish, and some 'big' carp

## Coldwater Fly Pattern

### Yellow Humpy



**Hook:** Quality 94840 1X Fine dry fly hook or equivalent, #10

**Thread:** Yellow monocord

**Tail:** Moose body hair

**Body/Wing:** Light cream deer body hair

**Hackle:** Grizzly hackle

**Tying Instructions:** Lay a base layer of monocord along hook shaft beginning at eye and wrapping to the bend. Then tie in a dozen or so moose body hairs to form the tail. Wrap the monocord thread forward to a point halfway between eye and beginning of the bend. Tie in a full bunch of the deer body hair with the tips pointing aft. The length should be approximately twice the shaft length of the hook. (tip: use a rubber band or some similar material to keep the deer hairs separated from the moose hair tail as they can readily get mixed together at this point). Now wrap the monocord thread around the deer hair moving aft to the point where the moose hair tail fibers are first exposed. Try to keep as much of the deer hair on the top of the hook as possible. Wrap the monocord back and forth over the tied down portion of the deer hair forming a neat yellow body. Now grasp the free tip of the deer hair and pull them snugly forward over the top of the just formed yellow body. Tie the deer hairs down at the midpoint of the shaft and draw the loose ends up to form the beginning of the wing. Take a few wraps in front of the wing to ensure the wing doesn't slide. Wrap the monocord in a figure eight pattern to bisect the wing. Place a drop of head cement at the figure eight criss-cross point to make the fly sturdy. Now tie in two matching grizzly hackles with the shiny side forward. Wrap the hackles forward giving 2-3 wraps in behind of the wing and 2-3 wraps in front of the wing, tying each hackle down behind the eye. Form a nice head with a whip finisher just behind the eye. Apply 2-3 drops of head cement to the head allowing drying time between each drop to form a nicely shaped and sturdy head.

Fluff the hackle and adjust the wing fibers so that you have a neatly dressed fly.

**Presentation Tips:** Humpies are excellent flies for rough water and riffles due to the buoyancy of the deer hair body.

## Warmwater Fly Pattern

### Fuzzy Brim Fly



**Hook:** #6 to #10 Aberdeen

**Body:** Chenille of desired color

**Hackle:** Palmered saddle hackle of desired color

**Legs:** Rubber hackle

**Wing:** White craft fur

**Weight:** Optional (lead or other wire)

**Thread:** To match body

**Tying Instructions:** The Brim Fly is a Gary Yaden pattern. The pattern here is a slight modification using craft fur for the wing and adding palmered hackle over the chenille body. Attach the thread at the eye of the hook. If weight is desired wind the desired amount of wire around the hook shaft. Wind the thread toward the bend of the hook (which will secure the weighting wire if used). Tie in the saddle hackle by the tip. Tie in the chenille. Advance the thread to near the eye of the hook. Wrap the chenille around the hook shank moving forward to form the body. Tie the chenille off and trim any excess. Using a minimal number of wraps, wrap the thread to the center of the chenille body. Tie in rubber legs of the desired color at this point. Return the thread to the head of the fly. At this point palmer the saddle hackle over the chenille body (being careful not to trap the rubber legs under the saddle hackle). Palmer the saddle hackle to the head of the fly. Tie the hackle off and trim any excess. Tie a sparse wing of white craft fur on the top of the fly. Trim the wing so the end is square.

**Presentation Tips:** This is a very "buggy" looking panfish fly, that is fished subsurface. Retrieves will depend on the mood of the fish.....

## Saltwater Fly Pattern

### Croaker Mesh Minnow



**Hook:** #1 - 1/0 Mustad 92611 or Eagle Claw 66 NA with offset straightened

**Thread:** White

**Rattle:** 4 mm diameter glass worm rattle

**Tail:** Yellow marabou with a few strands of yellow Krystal flash

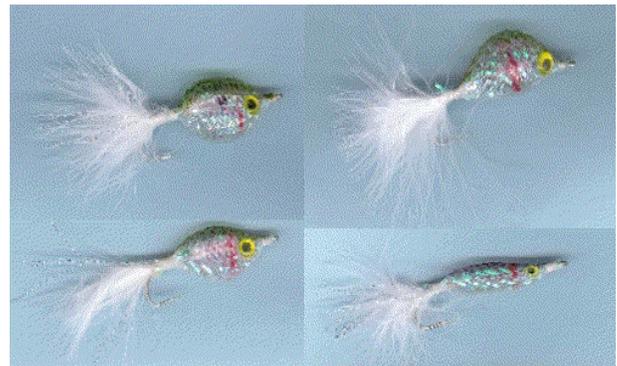
**Body:** Acrylic Designer Ribbon (3/4" diameter mesh tubing) colored with Sharpies

**Eyes:** 3D Prismatic eyes

**Glue:** E6000

**Tying Instructions:** Straighten the hook with a pair of pliers removing the offset. Mount the hook in the vise. Attach the thread at the eye of the hook and lay down a bed of thread all the way to the bend of the hook return the thread to near the eye of the hook. Coat the thread base with head cement. After the head cement dries, attach the worm rattle to the top of the hook, wrapping as completely as possible with thread covering the rattle. When done wrap the thread to the bend of the hook. Coat the wrappings over the rattle with head cement and allow to dry. Tie in a tail of yellow marabou. Then tie in a few strands of yellow crystal flash. Color all the white thread with a gold Sharpie. Using the clear Acrylic Designer Ribbon (found in the ribbon department of Hobby Lobby in the ribbon/wrapping department in either clear or pink), color approximately a 3 1/2" inch section with a gold Sharpie, on all sides. Cut the section. Tie the mesh tube over the tie in point of the tail, making sure all fibers of the mesh are tied down. Secure the mesh well with several wraps and tie off with several half hitches. Cut the thread and coat the windings with head cement. In a rotary vise, rotate the fly so the hook point is up. In a non-rotary vise re-mount the hook so the hook point is up. Trap the tying thread between the mesh and hook shank with your left thumb with the bobbin over the top of the hook shank, while pushing the mesh down and compressing the mesh toward the bend of the hook. Tie the mesh in the position wrapping the tying thread around the mesh. It may take a little practice to get this technique of shaping the mesh body down. Finish the wraps making a neat set of wraps, tie off using a whip finish, and trim any excess mesh away from the eye of the hook. Cover the

wraps with head cement. After the head cement dries, color the wraps at both the head and tail with a gold Sharpie. Glue the 3D Prismatic eyes in place using E6000 or a similar glue (super glues do not work well with this material). After the glue has dried, color the back of the fly with a brown Sharpie and add a few brown slashes along the sides angled approximately 30 degrees from the tail at the top to the fly to the bottom towards the head. Add red gill slashes with a red Sharpie on the bottom half of the fly just behind the eye on each side of the fly. The fly is finished and ready to fish. The mesh is very porous and the fly sinks, making this a version of a streamer with a substantial but very light body. Additionally, the mesh is easily compressed, so a soft body will be felt by the fish.



It is possible to make different shaped bodies by compressing the mesh: A fat shad shape (since the mesh is compressible you don't have to worry about obscuring the hook gap), a croaker shape, a more streamlined general fish shape and by stretching the mesh as much as possible a silverside-type shape. All these flies are sinking streamers. My next project is to figure out a floating fly with some action using these materials.

*Mark Delaney is a member of the Contraband Fly Casters of Lake Charles, LA and is also the VP of Communications for the GCC.*

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## Member Clubs of the GCC

### Texas

Alamo Fly Fishers - San Antonio  
Austin Fly Fishers - Austin  
Hill Country Fly Fishers - Kerrville  
Jack Sparks Central Texas Fly Rodders - Waco  
Pineywoods Fly Fishers - Lufkin  
San Gabriel Fly Fishers - Georgetown  
Texas Fly Fishers - Houston  
Texas Women Fly Fishers

### Louisiana

Acadiana Fly Fishers - Lafayette  
Contraband Fly Casters - Lake Charles  
New Orleans Fly Fishers - New Orleans  
Ouachita River Fly Fishers - Monroe  
Red Stick Fly Fishers - Baton Rouge

### Mississippi

Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Club - Ocean Springs  
Magnolia Fly Fishers - Jackson  
Mississippi coast Fly Fishers - Biloxi

### Coastal Alabama and Florida

Panhandle Fly Fishers - Destin, FL

## Founding Clubs & Founding Members

To get any organization as large as the GCC up and running is going to take a bit of cash. So we needed to raise a bit. The GCC is a non-profit organization. Donation Amounts have been categorized as Platinum (\$500 and up), Gold (\$250-\$499), Silver (\$100-\$249) and Bronze (\$1-\$99).

### Clubs:

**Platinum (\$500 and up):** Acadiana Fly Rodders, Austin Fly Fishers, Contraband Fly Casters, Mississippi Coast Fly Fishers, and the San Gabriel Fly Fishers.

**Gold \$250-\$499):** New Orleans Fly Fishers, Red Stick Fly Fishers, San Gabriel fly Fishers.

**Silver (\$100-\$249):** Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Club

### Individuals:

**Platinum (\$500 and up):** Rick Boebel, Roger Maler

**Gold (\$250-\$499):** Bill Heugel, Marc Pinsel, Sydney Smith, Ron Allen Thomas, Danny Williams

**Silver (\$100-\$249):** Buzzy Burns, Catch Cormier, Barry Dauphin, Bill Elgin, Ron Foreman, Thomas Herrington, Jimmy Lee, Walter McLendon, Jeux McMahon, Brad Nunn, Robert Raynor, David Trahan, Diane Williams

**Bronze(\$1-99):** Ron Begnaud, Mark Delaney, Jim Gill, Robert Peet, Keith Richard, Albert Wood

If we have missed any clubs or individuals who have made donations, please accept our apologies. This list is continually being updated.

We certainly want to thank all the clubs and individuals who have donated thus far, but we are still in need of bit more cash, if we are going to get everything going for our second conclave next year. We are still very young (just over 2 years old) and just getting on our way. Donations of **ANY** amount (notice the categories above start at \$1) will definitely be appreciated. We consider ourselves a "grass roots" type of organization, so we are soliciting support from all the fly fishers in the area. Please consider a donation. Donations may be sent to the GCC Treasurer, Danny Williams, 2018 Plantation Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70605.

## Officers of the GCC

President: Glen "Catch" Cormier  
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Secretary: Larry Offner ([bloffner@cox.net](mailto:bloffner@cox.net))

Treasurer: Danny Williams ([dwilliams@lwcpafirm.com](mailto:dwilliams@lwcpafirm.com))

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VP Education: (To be announced)

VP Conservation: Robert Tabbert  
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&  
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VP Outreach: Stacy Trimble  
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Website: <http://www.gulgcoastfff.org>

### Submit an Article to “Sea to Stream”

Although we have several great contributors to “Sea to Stream,” we are always looking for more and different articles to include in our newsletter. Articles can be about fishing trips, preparations for trips, safety, equipment, fly tying, fly recipes, recipes (you gotta eat, so it might as well taste good!), boating or puddling, etc. If you have an article please submit it to Mark Delaney at [chemprof2001@yahoo.com](mailto:chemprof2001@yahoo.com) in Word, WordPerfect, Open Office, or html format. Please do not send documents in pdf format (necessitates re-typing the article completely).

### Please Update Your E-mail Addresses

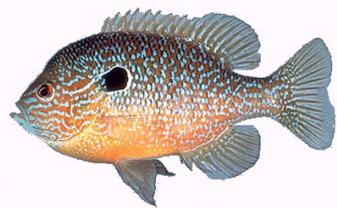
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### Advertising Rates for Sea to Stream

In response to enquiries as to the advertising rates for “Sea to Stream,” the rates are shown on the next page:

#### For FFF Members

Size	1 issue	4 issues (1 year)
1/8 page (business Card)	\$20	\$60
1/4 page	\$40	\$120
1/2 page	\$80	\$240



#### For non-FFF Members

Size	1 issue	4 issues (1 year)
1/8 page (business Card)	\$25	\$75
1/4 page	\$50	\$150
1/2 page	\$100	\$300

For more information contact Mark Delaney at [chemprof2001@yahoo.com](mailto:chemprof2001@yahoo.com). The e-mail listy for the GCC is **not** for sale. We have guaranteed the privacy of the members of the Gulf Coast Council and will not divulge the list.

### Club Meetings

These are times and places provided as a courtesy. It is strongly suggested that times and places be checked, since movements of both do occur. Clubs that have voted to join the GCC are marked with an asterisk.

Acadiana Fly Rodders\* mtg., first Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, 415 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA

Alamo Fly Fishers\*, third Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church, 6201 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

Austin Fly Fishers\*, third Thursday of the month, 6 pm, Northwest Recreation Center, Rm. 2222, 2913, Northland, Austin, TX

Brazos Valley Fly Fishers, second Thursday of the month, Brazos Valley Rehab. Center, Bryan, TX

Contraband Fly Casters\*, third Tuesday of the month, 6 pm flytying, 7 pm meeting, Kirkman Hall on McNeese campus, Lake Charles, LA

Dallas Flyfishers, third Monday of the month, 7 pm, Addison Conference Center, Dallas, TX

East Texas Fly Fishers mtg., second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, Johnny Cace's, Longview, TX

Fort Worth Fly Fishers mtg., first Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, Rm. 2-100 of UNT Health Science Ctr., Bldg. 2, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, TX

Hill Country Fly Fishers\*, 7 pm the thrid Thursday of eery month at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville, TX

Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Fishing Club\*, second Wednesday of the month, 6 pm, Ocean Springs Yacht Club, Ocean Springs, MS

Jack Sparks Central Texas Flyrodders\*, second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the second floor offices of Williams, Patillo, Squires and Wren in Bridgeview Center at the corner of Fishpond Rd. and highway 6 in Waco, TX.

Lone Star Fly Fishers, third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, Gander Mountain Lodge on S. Boradway, Tyler, TX

Magnolia Fly Fishers\*, second Tuesday of the month, large conference room of Bass Pro, Pearl, MS

Mississippi Coast Fly Fishers\* mtg., third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, West Harrison Occupational Center, Gulfport, MS

Mississippi Coast Fly Fishers\* fly tying., first Thursday of the month, 7 pm, West Harrison Occupational Center, Gulfport, MS

North Louisiana Fly Fishers mtg., third Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, YMCA Camp Forbing, Shreveport, LA

New Orleans Fly Fishers\* mtg., last Thursday of the month (except December), 7 pm, Whitney Bank Bldg., 1441 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA

Ouachita River Fly Fishers\* mtg., last Monday of the month, 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA

Ouachita River Fly Fishers\* fly tying, first Monday of the month, 7 pm, 226 Lakeside Dr., Monroe, LA

Panhandle Flyfishers\* mtg., first and third Thursdays of the month, 7:00 pm at the Destin Community Center, Destin, FL

Pinewoods Fly Fishers\* mtg., first Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, Lufkin Room of Lufkin Mall, Lufkin, TX  
Red Stick Fly Fishers\* mtg., second Monday of the month, 7 pm, LA Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Red Stick Fly Fishers\* fly tying., fourth Monday of the month, 7 pm, LA Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg., 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808

San Gabriel Fly Fishers\*, first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, 100 Stadium St., Georgetown, TX

Texas Fly Fishers of Houston\*, last Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, Four Pointe Sheraton Hotel, 2828 Southwest Freeway at Kirby, Houston, TX

## Calendar

- Apr 11-13 D'Arbonne Rendezvous, Lake D'Arbonne State Park, Farmerville, LA (sponsored by ORFF, celebration of warmwater fishing)
- Apr 12 AFF Perch Masters Classic, Town Lake Austin, TX. Tentative date. Check website at <http://www.austinflyfishers.com> to confirm date.
- Apr 18-20 LA Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Camp Grant Walker, Pollack. LA. For more information and registration go to <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/education.becominganoutdoorswoman/>
- Apr 25-27 RSFF Lake Concordia trip, Lakeview Lodge, Ferriday, LA
- May 3 RSFF Fly Fishing 10, Waddill Center, Baton Rouge, LA. Tentative date.
- May 16-17 2<sup>nd</sup> Gulf Coast Council FFF Conclave & Expo, Lake Charles Civic Center, Lake Charles, LA
- May 29-31 Southeastern FFF Conclave, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA
- June 21 Texoma on the Fly. Hosted by Red River Fly Fishers at Eisenhower State Park and Texas Parks and Wildlife. fly tying demos and instruction casting demos and instruction, etc.
- Jul 11-13 Redstick Grand Isle Weekend, Blue Dolphin Inn, Grand Isle, LA.
- Aug 8-10 New Orleans Great Outdoors Expo, Ponchartrain Center, New Orleans, LA
- Aug 22-24 Acadiana Great Outdoors Expo, Cajundome, Lafayette, LA
- Oct 2-4 FFF Southern Conclave, Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, AR