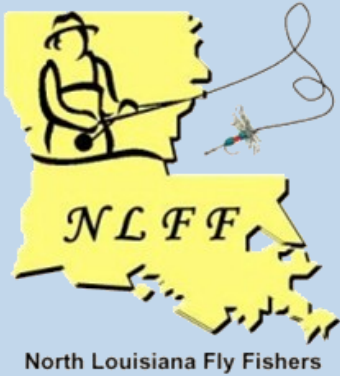


The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

December 2017 Volume 3, Issue 12



Established in 1984

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December Thoughts

As you know, this issue of *The Fly Line* is late. There have been a number of factors causing its tardiness, some technical (a lost flash drive with the completed newsletter on it) and some time constraints. It is the latter that I would like to talk about. Not in relation to the tardiness of the newsletter but as they relate to our daily lives.

Throughout the year, the demand for our time is great. If you are like me, the demand on your time increases exponentially this time of year. I think it is a combination of the yearly holiday season and the fact that I'm getting older. As I grow older, my family gets larger. While I don't have any grandkids yet, I do have several grand nieces and nephews. (They are just as good as grandkids. You can spoil them also and send them back home, too!) Family is taking every spare moment that I have right now.

Work is consuming the rest of my lately. With my increased responsibilities at work and companies trying to cram everything in that they can before the upcoming Christmas thru New Year's Day week, I have very little free time. While work is important - it pays the bills, it is nowhere near as important as family.

Family is what connects us to the past,

present and future. My parents, and their previous generations, are responsible for who I am and for who I hope my child and one day his kids will become.

Family is more than a mere definition of "parents and children" or "common ancestors". But nowhere did I see the term "loved ones" mentioned at all. Family is a title that is given to those that we hold dear in our hearts. Whether they

come into our lives by blood or by friendship, they seem to stay around through thick or thin. And we can also have multiple family units. For instance, my blood family and my fly fishing family. A family is a group of people who want, as well as choose, to be together

embraced by a bond that is so powerful and strong that not even the heaviest test of trials or troubles can breach.

I know all families have their odd-ball (s). But take time this season and throughout the coming year to show even them how much you love them. As Rodney Dangerfield said, "I looked up my family tree and found out I was the sap."

Don't be the sap!

Merry Christmas!



Changing of the Guard

I am closing out my 3rd year as club president. Serving as president has been both an honor and a privilege and also not a difficult task given the Executive Board that surrounded me and you, the membership. However, I think that 3 terms is plenty of time to implement one's agenda (if it is worth implementing). Now it is time for new leadership. With most of the same help that I had still in place, I'm sure that in-coming president Chris Pierce will do well in steering our club towards the future.

Over the last three years, we have hosted several successful Masters Series and fundraising events. The wheels are set in motion for another kayak raffle. However, we, in agreement with the East Texas Fly Fishers, disbanded the Caddo Conclave. The return on investment was just not worth the amount of work that went into it. The ETFF agreed to host an event in even years and we agreed to host something in odd years starting in 2019. We are looking into something closer to our home area, possibly at the refuge. We believe this may attract more visitors and highlight our club more readily to those visitors.

As I turn the club reins over to Chris, I assure you that he will continue the long traditions of our club as well as look to implement some new ones. I will continue to help in any way possible as a board member.

Have a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Steve Oliver



2017 NLFF Executive Board

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Designing Flies that Move, Part 2 - Creature Feature



The basic principle of fly tying is to come up with a fly that imitates a fish's choice food. This gets a bit trickier, in my opinion, when you are imitating creatures other than insects.

A mayfly's movement will change depending on what part of its life-cycle is occurring or if wind or weather is a factor in the hatch, whereas a creature like a frog, on the other hand, will desperately move all kinds of different ways when a hungry largemouth is chasing it.

Some observation is almost always required to tie a pattern that will be a successful imitation of a fish's preferred food source. Don't be afraid to go "fishing" every once in a while without a rod; I find I learn more sometimes that way. Take the time to really look at the way prey and food items move and when you go back to tie, choose materials that will do the

best job creating that specific kind of movement that you are trying to achieve.

Headbanger Frog

- Hook: Gamakatsu B10S 2-3/0.

- Thread: 6/0 Chartreuse Uni thread.
- Front Legs: Holographic Olive chartreuse Flashabou, large curly tail (chartreuse), silicon rubber leg strips (Watermelon color) tied on 30lb. Mason hard mono stem.
- Back Legs: Holographic Olive chartreuse Flashabou, barred chartreuse magnum rabbit strips, large curly tail, tied on 30lb. Mason hard mono stem.
- Body: Dark green deer body hair stacked over gray Senyo laser yarn with a chartreuse schlappen collar.
- Butt: Chartreuse large trilobal chenille.
- Eyes: Surface Seducer Dragon Eyes, Oceanic (green), size to match popper head.
- Head: Surface Seducer Double Barrel popper & slider head glued to a 20mm Fish-Skull Articulated Shank, size of shank can be changed depend-



Designing Flies that Move, Part 2 - Creature Feature, Cont.

ing on back hook size and popper head.

- Adhesive: Krazy glue.
- Markings: Prismacolor markers.

Frogs swim with a basic kicking movement and if you sit near a pond or lake you can easily observe them swimming around. The Headbanger Frog does a good job of tricking the fish by imitating a frog gently swimming along. The real magic comes when you throw the fly out and start really ripping it through the water. The head, arms, and legs start wildly moving and that is when the bite usually comes.

I really enjoy tying and fishing frog imitations because watching a bass come up and hit a frog on the top is enough to take your breath

away. You can usually see the fish follow it or come up if the water is clear enough. When the fish comes up from the depths to check out the frog, you can create some crazy action with the fly and watch the carnage that follows. These types of trigger movements can get the tough fish biting and should always have a place in your fly box.

This pattern was basically the prototype for the Rattle Trap Sucker Fly. I actually started playing around with the idea for a larger frog fly when my bass-sized popper had acquired a couple strands of long grass and a nice pike came up and swiped at it. I cleared my fly of the grass and made some more casts and there was no interest. I switched to a popper I had with a long rabbit

strip off the back and immediately got a strike so I figured the pike were wanting larger silhouetted flies on the top.

I came up with a frog that will wiggle back and forth but also have a swimming action to it. The curly tails add a touch more movement, especially in the back. The rabbit strips activate in the water and kick with the tails fluttering.

This is one of my favorite flies to move a little quicker with a double handed retrieve. You can make the head with the popper cup facing out as well, but for speedier retrieves I use the slider style. I tie this fly in natural greens, browns, and all black.

Laser Changer



(Continued on page 5)

Designing Flies that Move, Part 2 - Creature Feature, Cont.

- Shanks: Fish-Skull Articulated Fish-Spines.
- Hook: Gamakatsu B10S 2-1/0.
- Thread: 6/0 Uni thread (tan).
- Tail Section: Barred mini marabou (tan), yellow Senyo laser yarn on bottom and sculpin olive Senyo laser yarn on top, yellow saddle hackle collar, gold holographic flashabou.
- Next Section: yellow Senyo laser yarn on bottom and sculpin olive Senyo laser yarn on top, yellow saddle hackle collar.
- 3rd Section: yellow Senyo laser yarn on bottom and sculpin olive Senyo laser yarn on top, yellow saddle hackle collar.
- 4th Section: yellow Senyo laser yarn on bottom and sculpin olive Senyo laser yarn on top, yellow saddle hackle collar.
- Hook Section: Gold ice dub spun in a dubbing loop and brushedout, barred mini marabou on the sides.
- Head: (Top) Sculpin olive blended into black Senyo laser yarn (Bottom) yellow blended into flo. Orange Senyo laser yarn.
- Eyes: Fish-Skull Living Eyes, Earth, 15 mm.
- Adhesive: Krazy glue.
- Connecting Wire / beads: Beadalon .46mm (black).
- Markings: Black and red permanent markers.
- Weight: .25 lead wire.

The Laser Changer is easier to cast than most baitfish patterns because the body material sheds water a lot better than some other synthetics. I wanted to experiment with different materials than just the minnow wrap that is usually reserve for making Game Changer flies. I like using laser yarn for my heads on streamers because it slims down nicely in the water and sheds water fairly easily. I added some hackle collars at each shank to imitate fins and just tie everything together.

On my home waters of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, creek chubs are the main forage for the smallmouth and pike that live there. Chubs are beautiful little fish with iridescent sides that can



Designing Flies that Move, Part 2 - Creature Feature, Cont.

be hard to imitate with just white minnow wrap. With the laser yarn you can still get the bulk, but you can mix it and create nice blends to imitate the forage fish in your area. You can create all kinds of small fish imitations with great movement like this little baby brown trout.

Cranky Cray

Hook section

- Hook: Any stinger style hook with a decent gape.
- Thread: 6/0 Uni thread (tan).
- Head: Two strands of black krystal flash, Two tan barred rubber leg strands, brown mallard flank fibers, clump of Australian Opossum, clump of dark tan Senyo laser yarn picked out.
- Eyes: 12 lb. mono strung with small black beads and melted together with lighter.
- Body: Tan hare's ear dubbing and remaining clump of dark tab Senyo laser yarn pulled over as carapace and tied down in two sections.
- Claws: Tan pieces of sheet foam cut to shape and sandwiched/glued between a piece of white 30-40lb. braided line.
- Legs: Gold fleck and clear silicon strip rubber legs.

Articulated Shank section

- Shank: Fish-Skull Big Game Shank, 28 mm.
- Tail: Fish-Skull Shrimp & Cray Tail.

- Body: Tan hare's ear dubbing and remaining clump of dark tab Senyo laser yarn pulled over as carapace and tied down in two sections.
- Rib: Small gold ultra wire.

Crayfish have a unique backwards movement that is very hard to imitate – throw in a shank and a Shrimp & Cray Tail and you have something that moves just like a little mudbug.

The fly can be sped up and retrieved very quickly or twitched at rest. The foam claws start waving when the fly is at rest. The lesson I learned while developing this fly is if you can get a fly to move a certain way with very little effort and tying technique, it's a really effective method. The claws look like a crayfish's claws, but they are a good exercise in form versus function.

As I design commercial patterns, I

pretty productive. The thing that I have noticed when using crawl patterns is the more realistic ones do not always work as well. When it comes to crayfish, movement is more important than realistic silhouette and appearance.

I sat down and tried to really think about how I could have the best of both worlds. The foam claws are basically strung on the fireline so when the fly is at rest, the claws come up for attack mode just like a real crayfish. The Flymen Cray tail gives the fly weight and a nice fleeing action when stripped so it scoots away just like the natural thing.

Crayfish are actually quite a complex creature to mimic in fishing lure form, but this pattern is good when the bites are tough and the fish are being picky.

Sucker Punch



often look for ways to maximize materials and creativity while tying new patterns. There are a ton of different crayfish patterns on the market and most of them are

- Shank: Fish-Skull Senyo's Articulated Shank for steelhead and salmon flies, copper, 40 mm.

(Continued on page 7)

Designing Flies that Move, Part 2 - Creature Feature, Cont.

- Hook: Owner Mosquito hook size 2-2/0.
- Thread: 6/0 Unithread (dark brown).
- Wire: Senyo's Intruder Trailer Hook Wire (black).
- Tail: Copper flashabou, Copper Wing-n-Flash, barred rust colored zonker strip.
- Body: Copper ice dub in a dubbing loop and brushed out, burnt orange barred marabou tied on sides over body, cream colored marabou tied on the bottom of the hook.
- Head: White and yellow Senyo laser yarn on the bottom and rust, brown, and black Senyo laser yarn on the top (brushed well and blended).
- Topping: Black wing-n-flash.
- Weight: Lead eye (black/red).
- Markings: Brown permanent marker.

The Sucker Punch really shines once it gets wet. The rabbit tail waves and all the materials come together to closely resemble a small sucker or stoneroller.

When you look at how a sucker swims, they are not very animated compared to other fish species. They are mostly bottom dwellers with slow, deliberate movements. The fly does a good job of mimicking this food source's basic movement and appearance.

Every once in a while, swinging streamers can be productive in the areas I fish for smallmouth. I generally don't care for fishing that way but it can be incredibly productive at times. I don't really swing flies because the pike that inhabit the deep holes don't come up and stare at flies. They either come up and smash it or follow for a bit and then when you're ready to recast

they attack the fly at the change in direction.

Sharp, violent movements are usually the key to triggering the bigger fish, but when the water clears and warms, the pike find deeper, cooler areas to congregate. The smallmouth bass are then free to roam the water looking for food. This is the time of year when they really focus in on chubs, suckers, and small baitfish.

I tied the Sucker Punch to be a small baitfish imitation that can represent a couple prey items. You can strip it, swing it, or double-hand retrieve this fly. It's also a good alternative to a Clouser at times because of the slithering movement of the rabbit strip in the water.



About John Satkowski:

John Satkowski resides in Toledo, Ohio, where he fishes for all fish that swim in the rivers and lakes of southeastern Michigan and northwest Ohio. An artist, fly tying demonstrator, and fly tying instructor, John shares his love of fly tying and fishing as often as he can. For the last fifteen years, he has focused on unlocking the secrets of smallmouth bass, carp, trout, and northern pike on the fly, chasing after them in the rivers and lakes of the Wolverine state and the glory waters of Montana. John is also an accomplished realistic tyer and always tries to add a little realistic flair to his patterns. John's patterns often use creative fly materials and unconventional tying styles. Check out his bio and commercial fly patterns at Rainy's Flies. You can get a hold of John by visiting the River Raisin Fly Company page on Facebook or through email at RiverRaisinFlyCompany13@gmail.com.



NLFF Calendar

Dec 25th: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec 26th: NLFF Executive Board meeting. 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

Jan 1st: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan 9th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm.

Jan 18th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Jan 23rd: NLFF Executive Board meeting. 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

Jan 26th - 27th: "NLFF's Frozen Chozen". The North Louisiana Fly Fishers will host this event on the Little Missouri River in Murfreesboro, AR. A cookout will be held at Riverside park at 12:00 noon Saturday. Burgers and dogs provided. Bring your own drinks and a side dish or dessert. Camping and lodging are available near Murfreesboro or just come up for the day.

Fed 13th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm.

Feb 15th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Feb 27th: NLFF Executive Board meeting. 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

Mar 13th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm.

Mar 15th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.



NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE!
SEND ITEMS TO EDITOR:
STORIES, PHOTOS, ITEMS OF
INTEREST ARE ALL
WELCOME!

Upcoming Events

Dec 25th: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Jan 1st: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan 20th: "Cenla Fly Fishing Fest". Kisatchie Fly Fishers will host this event at the Civic Center at Kees Park in Pineville, La from 9am - 4pm. Admission is free. Fly tying demonstrations, programs, and more. Lunch and refreshments available. For more info, go to www.kisatchiefly.org.

Jan 26th - 27th: "NLFF's Frozen Chozen". The North Louisiana Fly Fishers will host this event on the Little Missouri River in Murfreesboro, AR. A cookout will be held at Riverside park at 12:00 noon Saturday. Burgers and dogs provided. Bring your own drinks and a side dish or dessert. Camping and lodging are available near Murfreesboro or just come up for the day.

Feb 16th - 18th: "Little Mo' Fly Fishing Festival". A celebration of trout and fly fishing on the Little Missouri River February 16-18, 2018 Community Center, Murfreesboro, AR. Friday evening gumbo and tying. Saturday: Programs, fly tying, exhibitors, retailers, casting, biologists "State of the River" program, and more. Sunday: on the river casting program. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. For details, check www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff-festival.html

Mar 10th: "Fly Fish Texas". Held at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, TX. Admission is \$10. This annual event will run from 9am - 4pm and is designed to teach everything from tying a fly to catching a fish in one day. For seminar and activities schedule, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc and click on the "Fly Fish Texas" link.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

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We're on the Web!

www.northlaflyfishers.org

Founded in 1984

Serving the Ark-La-Tex for over 30 years

It is the charge of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers to afford the general public and our members in particular, a better understanding of Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, and Rod Building. We wish to perpetuate the sport as a most pleasurable and exciting fishing method and provide education, instruction and the opportunities for relaxation to the membership.

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers (NLFF) Club serves the Ark-La-Tex area surrounding Shreveport. As the closest cold water fishery, we consider the Little Missouri (Little' Mo) River near Murfreesboro, AR our home waters. We also fish the local rivers and lakes. We even have a growing group of kayak fishermen that, as well as the local rivers and lakes, will fish the gulf coast marshes for some saltwater action!

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Red River Wildlife Refuge (150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA). Meeting starts at 7pm but come about 6pm to visit, tie flies and practice casting when the weather permits. See you there!