



July Fly Of The Month

Swedish

Calcasieu Pig Boat

By Todd A. Schotts

Tis' the season for pig roasts, bonfires, and extremely hot, steamy temperatures...so why not tie a July fly that is equally hot, and tasty as pig roast for the Bass - the "Calcasieu Pig Boat," by Tom Nixon!

If you are not familiar with Tom Nixon, he wrote *Fly Tying and Fly Fishing for Bass and Panfish*. The first edition was published in 1968. In the early 1960's, when he was teaching some Boy Scouts what started out as a 6 week class but ended up in a 20 week class, he recorded all the various aspects of warm water. He then noticed there were no warm water fly fishing flies available. Everything he could find was dedicated to cold-water Trout. And that is how the Bible for fishing Bass and Panfish was born. Some of his other, now well known flies, include the: Cajun Coachman, 56%er, Sowela, Louisiana Mickey Finn, YBP2, and Tom Nixon Spinner (not the type of spinner we are used to). For the fly tying purist reading this I will give you a warning. If you look up his patterns in his book you may see: propellers, spinning blades, and other hardware on most of his flies. Unfortunately, for the Cajun warm water guru his wise and knowledge was silenced as he passed away in spring of 2003. His legacy is carried on by the Contraband Fly Casters Club of Lake Charles Louisiana, aptly named "the Tom Nixon Chapter." What a great honor for the pioneer of fly

fishing and fly tying for Bass and panfish.

Tom Nixon's "Calcasieu Pig Boat" was a break through for Bass fly fishing... period. The name "Calcasieu" was named after the Calcasieu River in Southwest Louisiana and "Pig Boat" was what German WWII Submarines were called. The latter moniker because they were feared, deadly, and had stealthy qualities - the same qualities as this pattern. Tom mentioned in an article that as a lad growing up in the Atchafalaya Basin, it wasn't uncommon to catch a few dozen Bass on a fly rod using poppers, if the conditions were right. Otherwise you just didn't fly fish for Bass, as submergent flies for Bass weren't popular back then. That all changed when he created his masterpiece in the early 1950's. This fly imitates the Hawaiian Wiggler (a conventional fishing lure), a hot Bass producer in those days. Hence, the first fly resembling a Bass angler's jig was born.

The length of this fly pattern is 2 1/2" to 3" long. (The original was done in all black, but I know for fact that browns, olives, and purple's work best.) Also, make sure not to use any lighter thread than mentioned in the recipe. Use a lot of torque when tying in the rubber legs; stronger wraps help shape the head faster. Speaking of legs, medium round rubber works best for the skirt. Usually 4 bunches of legs are tied in on the near side, top side, far side, and bottom of the hook in 4 separate steps. Each bundle consists of 14 strands of rubber legs. Tie the round rubber legs in at the 1/2 way mark on the stand of legs. Then you will flip the front excess over to the back and secure them down. (It sounds confusing, but once you see it, it will make sense.) The original pattern had painted eyes, but with modern day materials you can use any type of molded eyes. The last step is

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(Recipe for original pattern)

HOOK: Mustad 3366 Size 1 – 2/0

THREAD: Size 210 or 280 color to match body material

BODY: Chenille – Large Chartreuse

HACKLE: Saddle Hackle – Chartreuse

SKIRT: Medium Round Rubber Legs – Black

to secure all the material in front with Epoxy, Sally Hansen's, Cure Goo Glue, or Lacquer.

When fishing this fly, I strongly suggest a 6-wieght or heavier fly rod, with weight forward floating line. Depending on where you are fishing, you may want to consider using an intermediate or sink tip fly line. When stripping the fly, best results are produced with a strip/pause retrieve. Water temperature should determine how fast you strip the fly.

This fly not only entices bass, but is equally deadly on brown trout, walleye, and pike. So until next month... "Tight Lines & Snazzy