



Sept. 18, 2006

Troy opened the meeting at 7:20. Troy will be stepping down as the JLSC president next year, he will be willing to take on the Treasurer role. We are looking for volunteers for the Events committee and the Conservation committee. The year end banquet will be held at the Lone Star Steak House in Cary.

Our guest speaker was JLSC member Mark Edmunds. Mark gave a presentation on how to make your own bucktail jigs. By making your own jigs, you can save money as well as produce jigs with your own colors and features. Mark gave an excellent presentation, as well as a live demonstration on how to powder paint a jig head. He also demonstrated the tying of bucktail on the jig he painted.

The process of making your own bucktail jigs is detailed below.

Pouring jig heads:

- 1) If you wish to pour your own jig heads, you will need lead, molds, hooks, and a melting pot. Note that you can buy pre-painted jig heads for a reasonable cost, so this step may be skipped.
- 2) Do-it corporation sells a wide variety of jig head molds. Banana jig heads work well. You will need to clean and lube the mold before use, follow the instructions that come with the mold.
- 3) Obtain the proper hook for the mold, these will be listed in the instructions. Insert hooks into the cavities you intend to fill, pour molten lead in them. Wait for the lead to harden, release, and repeat.

Painting jig heads:

- 1) Obtain powder paint (white and chartreuse are good colors).
- 2) Stir the powder paint with a 16 penny nail. This will fluff up the paint.
- 3) Heat the jig head in the flame of a blowtorch for 5-6 seconds (see directions on powder paint container.)
- 4) Quickly swish the hot jig head in the powder paint. Do not over apply powder paint.
- 5) Hang painted jig head on a rack to cool.
- 6) After you have a batch painted, they need to be cured in the oven, 22 to 25 minutes at 325 to 350 degrees. (again, see directions on powder paint container.) This strengthens the paint, making it less vulnerable to chipping.
- 7) After the jigs heads have cured and cooled, you can paint eyes on them. Use a Q-tip dipped in vinyl paint to paint an eye on the side of the jig. Use white paint for dark colored jigs and red paint for light colored jigs. Use a permanent magic marker to add a pupil when the paint dries.

Tying on bucktail hair:

- 1) Place painted jig head in vise.
- 2) You will need thread – use red color. For size ½ ounce jig heads and smaller, use size A thread. For ¾ ounce and up, use size E thread. Insert thread spool in bobbin for wrapping on the jig head.
- 3) You can buy bucktails or use natural deer tails (Save natural tails in freezer.) Many colors are available.
- 4) Wrap several wraps of thread around neck of jigs.
- 5) Cut a pinch of hair from the deer tail, hold on neck of jig, and wrap several times to hold this pinch in place. Repeat with three more pinches, each 90 degrees around from the last.



- 6) When all hair is applied, wrap thoroughly to hold all the hair in place.
- 7) Knot and cut thread.
- 8) Use a razor blade to cut off the hair that extends forward of the thread wraps.
- 9) Apply a coating of CA glue to the threads to seal the hair in, let dry.
- 10) The jig is ready to go fishing.

Links on the web

The JLSC website has a links page that will take you to suppliers that will sell you everything you need to make your own jigs.

TNT Tackle – sells painted and unpainted jig heads.

Stamina – Sells molds, hooks, vise, thread, bobbins, bucktails, glue, everything you need.