

First Coast Fly Fisher

January, 2001

Jacksonville, Florida

WINTER REDS



FCFF
BANQUET
SAT. FEB 3

Free Half-Day
Clinic w/
Fly Angler
of Year
Bob Clouser

See Forms Inside

January Speaker

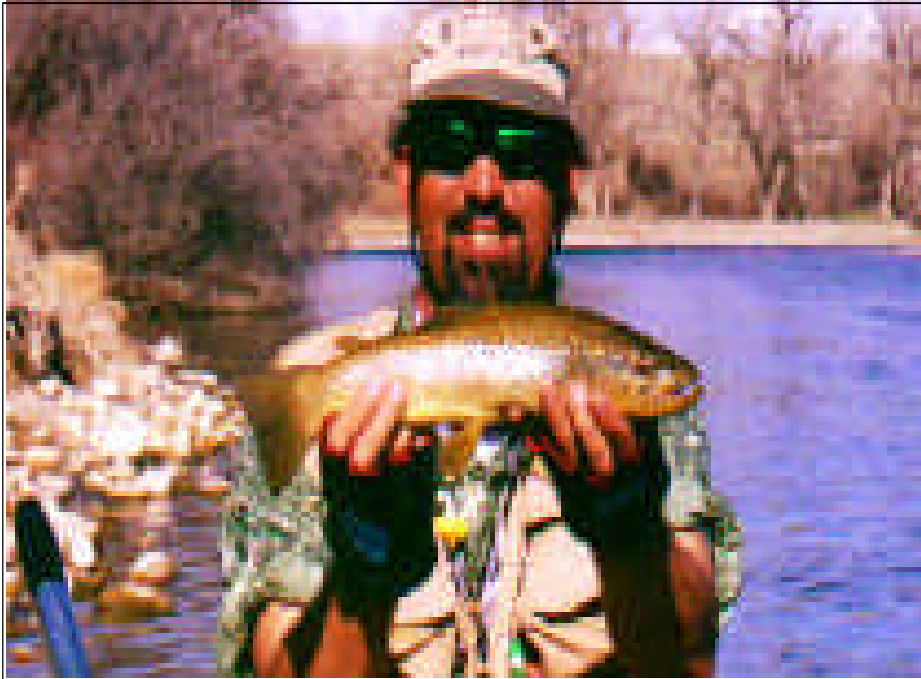
CAPT. FRANK

CATINO

Meeting Time and Date

SOUTHPOINT
MARRIOTT,
MON., JAN. 8
SOCIAL 6:30;
MEETING, 7 PM

Fish The Big Horn River in Montana In March and/or April



If you've ever thought about fly fishing a great western river, but didn't know who to contact or how to get there, here's your chance to go on a dream trip with professional instructors that you can trust. The Sherer brothers, Bill and Joe, are lifelong fly fishing instructors from Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. Both are great guys with good senses of humor.

The Big Horn River in Montana produces some fantastic fishing and beautiful scenery in one of the premier trout fisheries of the world.

The Big Horn River is one of the best tailwater fisheries in the world, it is known for its huge populations of Rainbow and Brown trout, roughly 12,000 per mile!

The best portion of this fishery is about 13 miles long, from the afterbay/Yellowtail Dam at Old Fort Smith, Montana to the 13 mile takeout point. There is also a takeout point at 3 mile, some people tend to stay in the upper river all day and never see the bottom end.

The normal daytime temperature in March is usually from the low 40s to mid

60s. I have seen it snow and I have also seen it in the mid 70s. then. As the temps warm in middle of the day, the fish come into the banks and will viciously attack streamers. This past year they had some fantastic days of dry fly and streamer fishing. Low springtime flows contributed to easy wading with many successful days.

The Big Horn trip includes:

3 nights Lodging : Double Occupancy per room

All meals: (*Continental Breakfast), Box Lunch, Dinner - 3 Breakfast, 2 Lunch, 3 Dinner

Boat rentals & flies and fly box

Scheduled Trips: March: 2-5, 6-9, 9-12, 13-16, 16-19, 20-23, 23-26, 27-30 (2 places left), April 2, April 3-6, 6-9 (2 places left)

Cost, excluding airfare: \$ 625 per person; maximum 4 people per trip; \$300 deposit required.

For more information, please email David Lambert, lambert321@fcol.com; or call Bill Sherer, 1-800-984-9384.

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Blue-Eyed Bendback

Simple Fly Is Durable, Effective ... And Enticing

Fly Tiers Corner

with
Kevin Cohenour

We fly tiers are always on the lookout for new materials that will make our patterns more effective, more durable, or perhaps just better looking. My good friend **David Lambert** is a very innovative tier who showed me a material which does all three. David discovered a use for the artificial "hair" material used in wigs. Purchased from a wig supply, the material is inexpensive, durable, and yields "LOTS of BUGS" from one purchase. The material came to David's attention by way of FCFer **Dick Michaelson**, who discovered it on one of his many trips to a local wig shop. Available in many different shades, the wig hair is useful in numerous patterns. Try using it on your in *Clousers*, in a *Rattle Rouser*, or other favorite streamers.

After running across the wig material, Lambert sat down one day to tie some bendbacks. Using a mixture of the wig in gray and black in conjunction with some light olive Orvis "Ultrahair" he tied a bendback. He decided it would look better with eyes. Searching his stock of paint, he found only white and blue acrylics. Being a "frugal" tier (Lefty would say "Scotch") who uses what is on hand, he painted eyes and ...the "*Blue Eyed Bendback*" was born.

Lambert gave a couple of his creations to a fisher-friend who was going fishing the next day. The fly fisher tried everything he had to entice the reds they saw cruising all around. He then remembered the bendback given by David, and tied it on. On the first cast...WHAM...fish on. The pattern had proven itself AND saved the day. Another fly fisher, this one from the *Blind Pass* (Englewood, FL), caught 29 fish on one Blue-Eyed Bendback, a yellow and tan version. He lost the fly on his 30th fish and promptly emailed Lambert for more.



If you want an easy to tie, durable and - most importantly-effective pattern...make a few bendbacks. This is one pattern which will entice redfish and trout, and will stand up to the toothy creatures like spanish and blues. Tying instructions follow.

Lambert's Blue-eyed Bendback

Hook: Bendback style stainless, size 2 to 1/0

Thread: Black size G

Body Wrap: 12 or 16 lb. Clear mono leader material

Wing: Layered gray and black wig, with light olive ultra-hair and Orvis Sparkle hair

Eyes: Painted acrylic

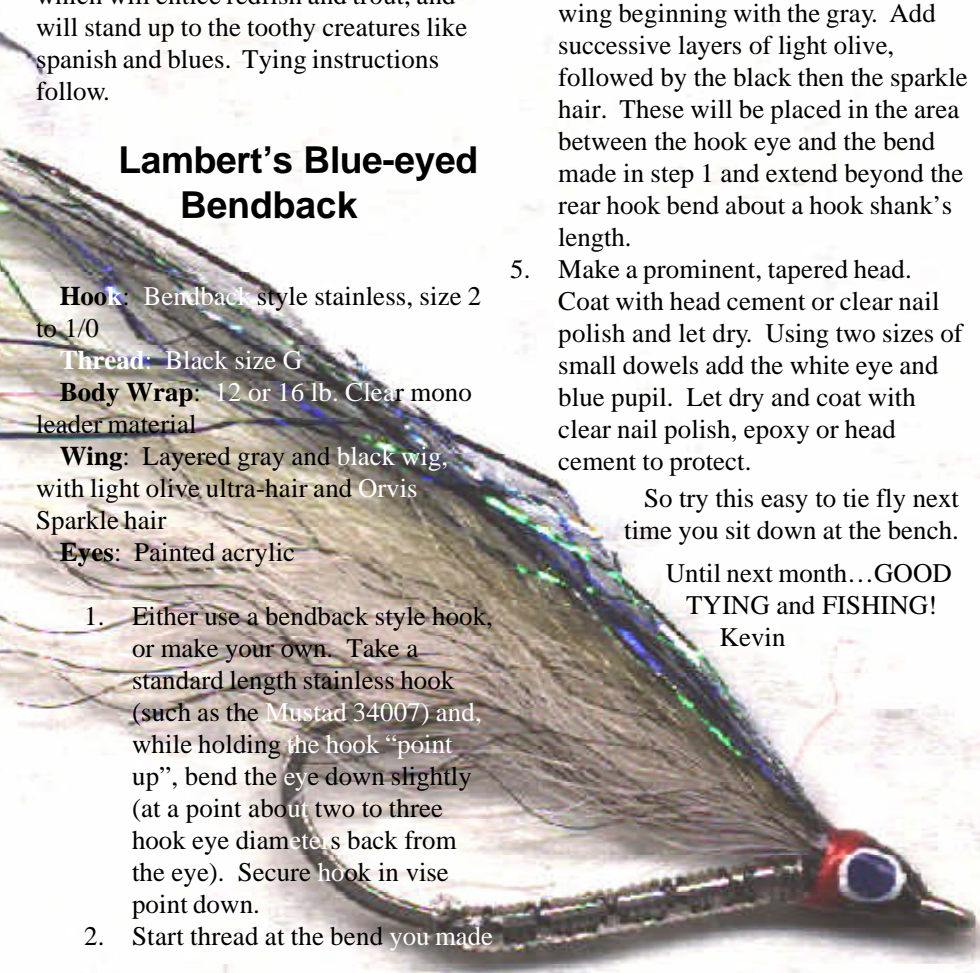
1. Either use a bendback style hook, or make your own. Take a standard length stainless hook (such as the Mustad 34007) and, while holding the hook "point up", bend the eye down slightly (at a point about two to three hook eye diameters back from the eye). Secure hook in vise point down.
2. Start thread at the bend you made

- in step 1. Lay the clear mono on top the hook shank with the long end pointing rearward. Begin securing the mono at the bend made in step 1 with four to five tight wraps. Using five to six evenly spaced, tight wraps, wind thread to the rear. Make four to five tight wraps at the rear hook bend and wind thread forward (again making five to six tight wraps).
3. Make a tight overhand knot at the rear hook bend with the clear mono. Wind the mono in tight wraps. Secure mono at the bend made in step 1, and cut excess.
4. Turn hook over in vise (point up). Layer a sparse to medium density wing beginning with the gray. Add successive layers of light olive, followed by the black then the sparkle hair. These will be placed in the area between the hook eye and the bend made in step 1 and extend beyond the rear hook bend about a hook shank's length.
5. Make a prominent, tapered head. Coat with head cement or clear nail polish and let dry. Using two sizes of small dowels add the white eye and blue pupil. Let dry and coat with clear nail polish, epoxy or head cement to protect.

So try this easy to tie fly next time you sit down at the bench.

Until next month...GOOD TYING and FISHING!

Kevin



Banquet Will Be Best Ever. \$1000s in Auction Items. Meet Bob Clouser

If you're a fly flinger, then you've heard of the inimitable Bob Clouser, father of the famed Clouser Deep Minnow. He's considered by many to be one of the world's greatest fly fishermen. Clever and funny, Clouser's always got lots of raucous stories to tell.

That's the reason you won't want to miss the FCFF Annual Banquet, Saturday, Feb. 3. We're having Bob Clouser as guest speaker.

The committee preparing the First Coast Fly Fisher's Annual Banquet maintains that this will be the biggest and best banquet ever. "Fly fishing master Bob Clouser is this year's speaker and he'll conduct a free clinic the morning of the banquet for all dues-paid members," said Jimmy Ricks and Scott Sheridan, co-chairs of the banquet committee. His namesake fly is always found at the top of a list of 'must-have' flies.

The Annual Banquet will be held Saturday night, Feb. 3, 2001 in the Morocco



Bob Clouser's Shop, Located in Clouser's Home in Pennsylvania

Shrine Auditorium on St. Johns Bluff Road.

As is the custom of the FCFF, the banquet speaker will conduct a free half-day clinic for all dues-paid members on the morning of the banquet. Lefty Kreh

called his friend Bob Clouser a great casting coach as well as a great fly fisherman and tyer. Clouser is guaranteed to provide lots of valuable information in all fields of fly fishing.

Don't forget to bring your checkbooks for the Banquet's silent auction and raffle. This year the FCFF banquet offers guided trips from many different states, totaling 10 or more to be auctioned as of this writing. We've got tarpon trips, snook trips, bass trips, and lots of donated charter trips from our local fly fishing guides.

Additionally, thousands of dollars of new fly fishing rods, reels, luggage, tying tools and materials, and art are available in both the raffle and silent auction.

VP/Outings Mike Head Wants You To Start 2001 With A BIG Snook and Lots of Ladies!!

The First Coast Fly Fishers annual outing to the Titusville Power Plants is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 27, 2001.

This annual event outing takes place on the Indian River at Port St. John, a couple miles south of Titusville on U.S. 1. The Titusville outing is traditionally one of the best attended outings of the year due to the generally large numbers of fish caught.

This outing is usually a great time for non-boat owners to FCFFers with boats to fish. If you would like to fish this outing, speak out so that we can pair you up with a boat owner.

We will meet at SR 210 truck stop (Shell Station at the corner of SR 210 and I-95) and leave at 4:30 a.m. We will head south on I-95 to SR 50 at Titusville, then East on SR 50 to U.S. 1 then south to the boat ramp. We will be fishing Rinkers Canal and the flats north of the canal to the bridge. Snook are in the canal, reds and trout on the flat, and the ladyfish can be prodigious near the plants.

In years past FCFFers have caught as many as 30 fish each at this outing, so don't get left out. Gold spoonflies and mullet patterns for the snook, crab, minnow patterns, and Clousers (be sure you have them in chartreuse), for everything. Eight or nine weight rods with floating or intermediate sink lines are in order.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting with maps.

Contact Mike Head for further information.

Bring A Fly, Win Many At The FCFF Fly Raffle

Cumberland Island Outing and Crooked River SP Campout



Ruth and Robbert Bouman w/ New Son Nicolas by Firelight at the Crooked River State Park Campout and Cumberland Island Outing in December.

by Dick Michaelson

The day started out in a fog at the Crooked River State Park campgrounds. Robbert, Ruth and Nicholas Bouman; Don, Susan, West, and Daniel Butler; and my wife Kitty and I had stayed at the Georgia park the night before to get an early start on the Cumberland Island outing. Donn and Robin McKinnon and their friends Bob and Susan met us there for the ride to Cumberland Island National Seashore for some fly fishing and good times.

By the time we arrived on the that secluded, beautiful barrier island off the coast of southern Georgia, the sun was shining and the wind had calmed to a 'castable' blow. Don't worry, that all changed.

Our host, FCFer Dr. Jim McCully met us at the dock. He and Scott Sheridan had already caught some trout earlier. Richard Clark was there with his boat; William Drewry was also there, so we had a nice crowd. After we'd collected everyone, we went to lunch.

Lunch was at one of the rustic cabins on the island. It's a perfect place to start a fly fishing outing. After lunch, our wives went on a sight seeing trip of the island, and we went fishing. We headed north, to the far end of the island, to the Orchid. The tide had not yet turned. We set up along the shoreline and started fishing quickly because we had only a two-hour window and we wanted every bit of time we could get.

After awhile, the wind picked up, and with it came the cold. We watched as another cold westerly slid noisily over us. Most of the boats caught fish and we left at about 4 p.m.

The ride back was a little rough, but no one lost any dental work. We got back to the dock and said our good bys, then we headed off in different directions.

At the campground we got back together for a cook-out and we all enjoyed the evening. Robbert and Ruth's new son, Nicholas, did not catch any fish, but for a four-month-old, I think he did enjoy himself.

Thanks to Jim McCully for a nice day. Jim, as always was a very nice host and we thank him for planning the trip, getting our Georgia fishing licenses and having all of the food ready for us.

The best way to meet new people and learn new areas is to come to the club outings. Just recently I had a member say to me that they have been in the club for almost a year and had not met many people. So at the next meeting or outing if you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself. Probably the worst thing that could happen is they might tell you a good fishing story.

Catch-em and Release-em, Dick.

Please Support These Contributing Guides, Instructors, and Fly Shops

Member guides, instructors, and local fly shops donate trips, time, knowledge and products to the First Coast Fly Fishers throughout the year and for our annual fund raisers. When you plan a fishing trip, please support them buy booking trips, lessons, and patronizing their shops.

Capt John Bottko	645-8998
Capt Bill Fluharty	241-1511
Capt Warren Hinrichs	384-0996
Instr. Jerry Knight	285-5411
Instr David Lambert	249-2075
Capt Randy Lanier	384-4187
Capt Larry Minard	285-7003
Capt Doug Moore	757-3323
Capt. Steve Moore	824-2621
Capt Jim Stockton	285- 4884

Capt. Joe Catigano,	904-673-5710
Cpt. Steve Kirkpatrick,	354-493-2279
Cpt. Marsha Foosaner,	561-287-5377
John Smitherman, TN	615-371-1965
Todd Rogers, GA	912-435-6390

Fore-Casters
53 King St.
St. Augustine, FL
904-827-0606
World Golf Village
904-940-0606
Jimmy/Sue Richerson

Salty Feather
3733 S side Blvd. #9
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904-645-8998
John /NancyBottko

Belize Trip: A Series Of Firsts

by *Chuck Foster*

I'd been wanting to take my girlfriend, Heather, to catch a bonefish for quite awhile. We'd talked about going to the Everglades, then we talked about going to the Keys. Finally, we settled on Turneffe Island off the coast of Belize for November.

Once we booked the trip, Heather and I went down to Fore-Casters in World Golf Village where David helped me collect the tackle and gear I'd need for the trip. As usual, I spent way too much money.

The day of the trip came and Heather and I flew the 1.5-hour trip to Miami, then another 1.5 hours to Belize City. After a beautiful boat ride, we were met in absolute paradise by Turneffe Island Lodge manager Vaughn Cochran and his wife, Jean. Vaughn is a St. Augustine native and artist who runs the lodge and its bookings.

This trip was a first for Heather for a lot of reasons: First time out of the country. First time in a fishing lodge. First time catching bonefish. First time catching LOTS of bonefish. As a matter of fact, according to Vaughn Cochran, Heather set the bonefish-catch record for newcomers to Turneffe Island Lodge.

We arrived on Wednesday afternoon and took time to relax with refreshments. Thursday a monsoon set in and we were forced to stay inside the lodge. We got up Friday to find the sun out and the waters clear and smooth. We would have been the first out of the dock if the starter rope hadn't chosen that moment to declare its freedom from the fly wheel. After an hour or so of repairs, we started a 30-minute ride on crystal clear waters.

Our guide took us through a hole in the mangroves to an oceanside flat that opens up like a desert for 10 miles. The water averaged about one foot deep and the flat was alive with coral formations, crustaceans and sea life.

We walked for about 15 minutes and found no bonefish, then George, our



HEATHER WITH HER FIRST (OF NINE) BONEFISH



CHUCK FOSTER AND BELIZEAN BONE

guide, said, "Missy, throw here," although we didn't really see anything. In seconds Heather was hooked up to her first bonefish. In the next hour, Heather caught a total of nine bonefish. By lunchtime, her total was 9 for 12. I was pretty busy taking photos and unhooking fish, but I managed to catch four or five myself. Most of these were caught on size 4 and 6 pink Charlies. We'd tried white Charlies and chartreuse Gotchas, but neither worked that day.

On the way back to the boat, we saw eight 30-lb. parrotfish backing near the mangroves. Their colors were absolutely incredible. I asked George if you could catch them on a fly. He said we could, but we could kiss our fly lines goodbye, because they were such strong fish. We also saw rays, puffer fish, and small sharks.

We had a lunch of gourmet pizza at the Lodge, then George said, "O.K. bossman, now it's your turn. We're going to try for a gran' slam for you." I knew he meant it when he put me on three big permit—over 20 lbs.—right away. Unfortunately,

Continued on Next Page



TURNEFFE
ISLAND
LODGE OFFERS
MILES OF
PRISTINE
FLATS

Belize Bonefishing. . .
Continued From Previous Page

they spooked long before we got into casting range. Next we went for tarpon with my new 11 weight Trident and gold Vortex reel. George looked at my fly box, a collection of mostly store-bought flies and a few I'd tied myself. God bless him, he told me to tie on one that I'd tied a week before we came down. It was a

black fly with green K-flash with a touch of white.

George pushed me to within 60 feet of a tarpon and I dropped a fly right in his zone. He charged. I stripped. He charged, I stripped. He continued to charge, then turn off the bait, until I could have spanked him with my rod tip. Then he saw George and spooked. George dryly suggested that the

fish must have recognized him.

A few bonefish later, we reeled in and turned back to the lodge for dinner and to get ready for the flight back the following morning.

I learned a few things on this trip, the biggest being this: Whenever you book a trip like this, regardless of how much time you've allotted for it, the time is far too short.

Heather learned a few things too. She was brushing her hair a few nights after we returned when she started, then looked at me. "Your plan worked," she said, "I'm addicted."

When I asked what she meant, she said, "I was just sitting here brushing my hair and dreaming of fly fishing in Belize."



FCFFER STEVE TUMILLO W/ NICE KEYS PERMIT

Mark Your
Calendars Now
Annual FCFF
Banquet, Sat.
February 3.

Winter Fish: It's Cold, But It's Time Someone Talked About Catching Them

by *Donn McKinnon*

No one else has been writing much about about the fishing this winter, so I guess I'd better speak up. I've been fishing several times with Dick



Winter Reds Are A Hard Found Treat In North Florida. Donn Holds A 25 Incher.

Michaelson during the last two weeks of December. We've never seen more red's up the creeks! Trouble is, they are not very hungry.

Last outing we cast to a school of thirty

fish or so in the main Intracoastal that came right up to us. No takers! Past experience is that winter schooling fish will compete for almost anything. We then chased fish up a shallow creek. They were everywhere!! We went up right at low tide and chased them about 1/2 mile until the water got up to the grass (about two hours).

We had three people fishing in the boat and managed to get a fish apiece on various things, but they just wouldn't bite much. All fish that did bite, picked the fly up right off the bottom while just barely "twitching" it.

We estimated we saw at least 300 fish, but some may have been fish we chased up the creek. The fish caught were all 24" and very fat.

Dick examined the stomach of one to find out what they were eating and found it full of small 1" minnows and just a couple of small shrimp. Our theory is that this winter the fish are finding more food than normal so they are not as aggressive as when there is little food for them. It has been quite a show however frustrating to see so many fish.

We have noticed that the incoming tide makes the fish a little more aggressive, but that may be because we see more fish during that time.



Ex FCFFer Steve Tumillo Boats a Baby Tarpon In Islamorada, His New Home

My suggestion is to be ready to go whenever the wind calms down and we have low tide between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The shallow creeks and edges of the waterway warm up about 3 or 4 degrees on a sunny calm day. If there are any more suggestions or stories, please share.

First Coast Fly Fisher

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