

# Got 'Milk-Um'?

## Fly Tiers Corner *with* Kevin Cohenour

Often a new and productive fly is "designed" using the qualities of other successful patterns. We fly tiers are a creative bunch, able to improve on patterns. Creating a better "mousetrap" is something we enjoy doing,



and it often produces a very deadly fly. The "Milkum" fly, which First Coast Fly Fisher member Capt. Doug Moore developed, falls into this deadly category. Doug, who knows how effective both the "Clouser Deep Minnow" and "Lefty's



Deceiver" are, sat at his vise (for most of us who tie that is spelled vice) and tied up a chartreuse and white Clouser/Deceiver half and half.

Being an innovative tier, Doug added a middle layer of red bucktail, and used "holographic tinsel" vice the standard krystal flash normally employed when tying Clousers. Holographic tinsel is a very reflective material. It is a bit stiffer than "flashabou," but still undulates and flashes seductively to the fish. The layer of red bucktail really shows when the fly is wet, perhaps simulating an injured fish to the hungry predators.

Doug has fished the "Milkum" successfully for redfish, tarpon, seatrout, and recently tripletail. I tied a few up and tested them on a couple outings myself.

One change I made from Doug's pattern was the use of fuchsia bucktail vice red in the center. I caught countless ladyfish, blue runners, spanish mackerel, and was cut off by a bluefish on one recent outing. After changing to a heavier bite tippet, I began catching and landing the blues. I then went redfishing on a recent visit to Jacksonville with former FCFF president Dan Knesek. I cast a size 2 Milkum near a promising looking oyster bar at the outlet of a small tidal creek in the Sister's Creek area. My first cast I had a hit from a redfish. Being a real sportsman I didn't set the hook. I mean, I wanted to give the fish every chance. (Ok, the truth is I set the hook like I was rainbow trout fishing and just pulled the fly out of the fish's mouth.) However, I do learn. I made a couple more casts to the same area. Bam! The redfish took again. This time I actually let the red take the fly, did a couple solid strip strikes, and it was hooked and running. After an exciting fight we boated the fish, which measured just under 27" of chunky, hard pulling red. A quick picture and

it was released to hunt mullet another day.

If you are looking for a new fly to tie that will produce for you (I mean what tier isn't??), give the Milkum a try.

Tying instructions follow:

### Moore's Milkum

Hook: Mustad 34007 or equivalent, size 4 to 1/0; Thread: White size G (or other large size thread); Eyes: Painted lead dumbbells; Tail: White saddle hackle, splayed; Flash: Holographic tinsel; Wing: Chartreuse, white, and red bucktail

1. Secure hook in vise with point on bottom. Start thread behind hook eye and wind to about 1/3 position back from

eye. Attach dumbbell eyes at this point using 8-10 tight diagonal wraps each direction, followed by 5-6 horizontal wraps below the eyes but above the hook shank (helps pull the diagonal wraps tight).



2. Attach a "toothpick" diameter of red bucktail immediately behind the eyes, extending back two hook shank lengths beyond the bend. Attach holographic tinsel on top the bucktail extending slightly beyond the bucktail.



3. Wind thread back to just forward of the hook point. Select 6 saddle hackles of the same size. Marry them up so you have two groups of three with the tips even. Match up the two groups so they splay apart and attach these at the point where the thread is hanging. The feathers should extend



back the same length as the bucktail. Wrap securely over the butts, to behind the dumbbell eyes. Cut excess butts and wind over any fuzz. Wind thread in front of eyes.

4. Cut, clean and stack a "fat



matchstick" diameter of white bucktail. Attach in front of the eyes so the wing extends rearward the same length as the red bucktail and feathers. Pull down behind eyes and make four or five wraps immediately behind eyes securing bucktail. Wind thread to immediately in front of eyes.

5. Turn hook over in vise (point up). Attach a slightly larger diameter of chartreuse bucktail in front of eyes. Wind a neat tapered head. Whip finish, cut thread and cement.

Until next month...GOOD TYING and FISHING!

## Rickmon's Bonefish Lodge

# The Abacos

by Dick Michaelson

In the words of FCFFer and Abacos trip survivor Chuck Foster, only two words can describe this year's presidential trip. . . "Freaking Great." (Well, that's close to what he said anyway.)

On a conservative estimate we caught 150 bonefish, plus mutton snapper, barracuda, blue runner, yellowtail, jacks, and Jimmy Ricks boated a turtle. Most of the bone's where in the 2-4 pound range but a few of us caught fish up to seven pounds.

I had one fish almost spool my 200 yards of backing and my drag was set at 1/3. I used the palm of my hand on the reel to slow him down. The palm drag seemed to work better then the reel drag. Doug Moore had a fish into his backing and the fly line separated from the backing. They found the line floating on the surface so he tied it to his backing and landed the fish. That's a fish story.

My wife Kitty and Teresa Moore did very well good on the spinning tackle; both caught bonefish. On the last day Kitty caught bonefish, barracuda, mutton snapper, and jacks. Teresa caught her first bonefish on a fly. She probably would have caught more fish but she and Jimmy took over the kitchen and the food really improved. Before we left, Teresa was just about running the whole lodge.



KITTY MICHAELSON WITH HER FIRST BONEFISH



THE AUTHOR HOLDS ONE OF DOZENS OF BONEFISH CAUGHT ON THE 2001 ABACOS TRIP

Joe Bishop a new saltwater fly fisher caught his first bonefish. Our president took top honors and a free shirt from Rickmon's BoneFish Lodge for the most fish caught (33 bonefish). Lee Hinrichs and David fished together and Lee caught a nearly equal share of fish.

At night Scott Sheridan, Donn McKinnon, Ray Waters, David and I spent a lot of time at the tying table and new fly tier emerged in Chuck Foster. He was tying and doing a pretty good job.

He tied a pink on pink fly (don't ask me why this big man likes pink) and Lee used the fly the next day and caught a bonefish.

There was no one best fly to use. We caught fish on a variety of patterns. Jerry Bott started a card game and the card players were the last ones to bed every night. His fishing

partner and room mate Dick Choate caught bones on the second bonefish trip of his life. His successes have been good.

All in all everyone contributed something to this trip and we had a great time. We have a good club and great people. I want to thank everyone on the trip for making this the best fishing trip I have every been on.



TERESA MOORE WHEN SHE WASN'T FISHING