

First Coast Fly Fisher

December 2005

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



January's Speaker - Master Fly Tyer Bill Sherer with a cutlassfish he caught last week near Titusville.

MEETING & SPEAKER

Monday, Dec. 5 - Dick Michaelson & David Lambert -- "*Techniques For Better Fly Casting*" -- Most of us need to improve our casting techniques. Michaelson and Lambert will show you some simple ways to make your cast more efficient. Dick

Michaelson has studied fly casting for many years and is adept at casting diagnosis. David Lambert is one of the 110 master casting instructors in the world and an FFFCasting Board of Governor's Strategic Planning Committee member.

Monday, January 9 -- An Evening with Master Fly Tyer Bill Sherer -- Could there be any better way to start off the new year than by beefing up your fly tying skills? Bill is one of the 40 master fly tyers in the world. His specialty is synthetics and he's will display and demo much of the new material that's so beneficial all waters -- trout, bass, and salt water.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 3 - Annual trout outing with Jim McCully at Cumberland Island.
January 21 & 22 -- FCFF Banquet and Fly Fishing Weekend - Join us for a weekend with Master Casting Instructors and Worldwide Fly Fishers Capts. **Gary and**

Wanda Taylor. Saturday, Jan. 21, 9:00 to 1:30 casting, tying, and rigging instruction for the whole club. Saturday night, FCFF Banquet, UNF Conference Center. Sunday -- Intensive Casting and Fly Tying with Gary and Wanda. Sign up at the December meeting.

Need A Clear Water Challenge? TRY LAKE SAMPSON

by Dana Griffin, III & Jodi Slapcinsky

Want a challenge? Here's a dandy. Figure out where the fish will be biting in a north Florida lake in the winter. This is what we confronted recently on Lake Sampson, a relatively clear water lake west of Starke. All right, it wasn't officially winter yet, but a cold front had pushed nighttime temps into the '40s for the past several evenings, and we worried whether any fish could be induced to strike our flies.

But cool season fly fishing on Florida lakes is not without its guidelines. Of course, if you're after sunshine bass then the problem of water temperature doesn't come up. Sunshines show a lot of their striped bass parentage by loving cool conditions. These fish are out there chasing shad right through the dead of winter. Black bass and bream are another matter. Once the water temperature slips down into the '40s and '50s these warm-water-preferring species are apt to move into the deeper parts of the lake and, with lowered metabolisms, are less inclined to move quickly to a fly. They can still be caught, but you'll earn every fish you boat. Sinking lines and slow retrieves are essential.

Our Lake Sampson excursion did have one thing going for it. There had been a brief warm up prior to our departure. The air temperature had climbed into the '70s the day before, and it looked like we were in for a repeat of the same on the day we launched the boat. And if we've learned anything, it's that warming periods in

the winter season should not be wasted. They can send fish back into the shallows and put them in a mood to feed. Luckily for us, theory matched practice. We found the fish – they had set up feeding stations on an extensive flat along the north shore of the lake. We even found a few that were willing to come topside and attack floating patterns – just like in the good ole summertime!

So, a trip that might have turned out differently, developed into a great cool season experience. Nature came through with a clear reminder: come the winter, the flyrodder who loves lake fishing needs to keep a close eye on the mercury. When those brief warm ups come, drop whatever else you're doing and get out there. The fish are most likely in a cooperative frame of mind, willing, if not ready, to make your efforts worthwhile.



Dana Griffin W/ Lake Sampson Bluegill



Jodi Slapcinsky & White Crappie

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Fishing In The Shadow of the I-70 Bridge

by *Milt Mays*

I had wanted to fish the Blue River since I moved to Colorado. It has record sized rainbows and browns that are all catch and release for the first two miles or so below the Dillon Reservoir. The fish are up to 30 inches or more, and have gotten quite fat through the years on the local population of Mysis Shrimp. Apparently this small shrimp has really taken off in this tailwater, and the trout love it. They are also in the Gunnison River as well.

So, looking at pictures of mysis patterns for my trip. I read the above sited article had some good luck anyway. about 1 hour 45 minutes on very good tailwater fishery, it can be glad for the good highway. have to watch the weather.

I had been watching the were possibly going to get weekend. So, now being the on Friday 7 October. We that week, but it turned out the day I went.



The author fishing the Blue near Dillon, CO.

The aspen in the fall can be beautiful, but usually a little sooner. So, we turned off of I-70 at Silverthorne, and went right into the parking lot of the outlet stores. The reason we parked there, is that some of the best fishing is right behind the outlet stores. This was the guy down stream from me. This fishing might not be for those interested in solitude and no people—quite the opposite. This was one of the few places I've fished where I had an audience.

Given that this was such a famous river, and that the fish were supposed to be so hard to catch, I was all thumbs and poor casts at first. After loosening up some, and being frustrated with no takes on mysis nymphing, I saw some noses coming out of the water and decided to try dry flies. Good thing! 'Cause they were big noses. It was nice, because the river was low enough so you could really wade easily, getting to both sides of the river.

My first spot was about 100 ft from the I-70 overpass. It was surprising how little noise I noticed. And after five fish, I didn't care where I was. They were mostly interested in some BWO and Parachute Adams patterns. Then I saw the really big nose coming up in front of a big boulder. So, I quietly made my way over to a good casting spot, and floated a BWO pattern right over his spot and, Holy sh.., that big rainbow came up and slurped the fly in. And it was a good fight on my One-weight I'd just got from Orvis. Though it was not the fight I would expect from a redfish or a bonita, it definitely kept my interest for a few minutes. Twenty four inches, and fat!

Next I went to the area just below the footbridge overpass to the other malls. This area had some big rainbow that people on the bridge could point out to fishermen. Lynn wanted me to try for these and show up all the other fishermen that could not catch them. Unfortunately, these were all night feeders, or at least some-other-time feeders. So, I eased my way down one more section of rock breakers, about 50 feet away, and found a nice pool. I took another 22 inch fat rainbow out of there and several small brookies, and few browns, all to the cheering wife on the bridge. I have to say they were very picky fish. The fly had to float just right, and had to be what they wanted, or they just looked it over and went back to their lie.

So, though it wasn't a 50 fish day on the NC's Tuckaseegee or the Nantahalla, in 4 hours catching a dozen fish and a few hogs on one of the premier rivers in Colorado felt pretty good. And, I got to sleep in my own bed, after a nice supper and a beer! Tight lines!

(Milt Mays is a retired USN physician who has recently transplanted to Colorado from Florida)

like that one, I tied a few I got the pattern from one Unfortunately, I did not until after I went. But, I The drive to Silverthorne is from my house. It is mostly highways. Since this is a fished year round, so I was But in true winter, I will

weather and knew we some snow over the retired sot that I am, I went had some pretty cold days to be shirt sleeve weather

New Fly Tyer's First Inshore Materials Box

by Jerry Aldridge



Northwest Florida has been blessed with a great variety of inshore fish species, some abundant year around such as the speckled trout, some more seasonal such as bull reds marauding our bays and beaches in the fall and winter. Ladyfish, blues, Spanish or king mackeral, pompano, flounder and jack crevalle are always a possibility. So....what flies does a newcomer buy or tie to have a good chance to partake of this bounty? Salt water inshore anglers are just as opinionated as their fresh water counterpart, so you won't be troubled with a shortage of recommendations. I will jump into the fray with my short list of flies to tie. These work for me and others and will serve well as a starting point. For around \$125 you can fill your inshore box with flies proven to catch just about species likely to be encountered.

You should have flies in your inshore box that will cover the water column from the surface to as deep as you can reasonably expect to fish with a fly. The fly I choose to cover the deeps is (big surprise) the Clouser deep minnow.

This is a proven fly that has probably caught more salt water fish than any other. It is easy to tie and is very durable if properly tied. Clousers can be tied in any size from huge to miniscule but sizes 2 and 4 hooks will be enough to begin with. Some of my favorite color combos are pale orange and brown (especially in autumn and winter), smoke and black, tan and olive, chartreuse and white, and tan and yellow. Lots of other colors work but we will start with these to keep costs of materials down. Lefty's Deceiver is a fine fly to work the water column from just below the surface to 3 or 4 feet down (more if you weight the hook). This is probably the

second most popular salt water fly and has caught just about anything that swims. A little more difficult to tie than clouser but a must have fly. We will start with all white (Lefty's original), chartreuse and white, yellow and orange(a good color for redfish), and red/white/grizzly. Deceivers can be tied with artificial wing material but bucktail makes a more eye-appealing fly. Jack Gartside's Gurgler is my first choice for a noisy fly on the surface. Poppers of many sorts will work well also but the gurgler is easy to tie with readily available materials; \$5 worth of foam will make your gurgler bodies for the next 10 years. We will start with white, red, yellow and orange.

The materials required to tie our flies is listed below. Substitute materials are sometimes used to keep costs down. For example, flashabou is used in place of spooled mylar for the bodies of our deceivers. You can certainly use original material if you want to spend a little more. Total Material cost is about \$125. Costs were taken from the catalogue of a single supplier except for the foam .

(Jerry Aldridge is president of the Fly Fishers of North West Florida in Pensacola.)

A box or two filled with these flies, a few of each size and color listed will catch a lot of inshore fish. You will add other kinds and colors and sizes as you gain experience but these are a helluva start!

1. Hooks, Mustad 34007, sizes 2 and 4, 2 boxes of 50 at \$6.25 per box, \$12.50.
2. Thread, Danville 3/0 waxed, white, red, orange, beige, .95/e. \$3.80.
3. Spirit River Dazl-eyes, nickel, 5/32/ 3/16, \$2.75 per 25 pack, \$5.50.
4. Unique Hair, tan, olive, chartreuse, white, smoke, black, yellow, \$2.50e., \$17.50.
5. Flashabou, copper, gold, silver, pearlescent, \$2.95 each, \$11.80.
6. Krystal flash, orange, root beer, chartreuse, pearl, yellow, \$3.50 each, \$17.50.
7. Bucktail, pale orange, brown, white, yellow, red, chartreuse, \$4.50 each, \$27.
8. Saddle hackle, white, yellow, grizzly, red, \$2.95 each, 11.80.
9. Marabou, white yellow, orange, \$1.50 each, \$4.50.
10. Foam, white, yellow, orange, red, \$1 per sheet, \$4.00.
11. Ice Chenille, pearl, yellow, orange, red, \$2.50 each, \$10.00.

Total Material Cost = \$126.



Kudley's Nikon

Scenes from last month's family day.
 (TL) Mayhew ties one on.
 (TR) Moreford unties one on.
 (BL) Mayhew's Spoon Fly
 (BR) We've been worried about Chan's choice or rods, but pink is in this season.
 Photos: Dave Kudley

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Giving Thanks for the Broad

by Rick Palazzini

Over Thanksgiving Holiday I traveled to North Carolina and fished the Broad River near Asheville. The river ran through a large track of privately owned land which I had access to. The air temperature was 30 degrees, water 47 degrees, and the sky was clear and sunny. Also, it had rained a couple of days earlier.

As Tim and I were driving into the valley, we noticed all the cows were all standing, we then knew it was going to be a good day on the water. Tim showed me how to rig for these waters using a strike indicator, shot and a dropper. The leader length was 1 1/2 times longer than the water depth. The take was going to be soft and if the indicator acted even the slightest bit different from the bubble next to it you set the hook gently.

As luck would have it, we stumbled upon a healthy population of spawning Browns and hunger Bows within a half mile stretch of the river. The San Juan worm was the fly that worked. Eight hours later I managed to land 21 fish. Most of them pigs!

Contact Tim MacCourtney of CCS Outfitters 828 736 3012 in Cherokee, NC.



First Coast Fly Fishers

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