

First Coast Fly Fisher

January 2005

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL

Banquet and Fly Fishing Weekend Features Saltwater FFling & Casting Pro Jon Cave

Mark your calendars for best ever FCFE Banquet and Fly Fishing Weekend, the week following the Super Bowl, Feb. 19-20, 2005. This year's banquet speaker is author, world-renowned fly casting instructor, and all 'round good guy **Jon Cave**.

Jon is the consummate saltwater fly fisherman. His passion for saltwater led him to a Master of Science degree in natural resources, specializing in fisheries management. He's guided in and fished Florida's salty environs for 40 years, and he's travelled virtually worldwide searching for saltwater game fish on the fly.

Jon Cave is the casting instructor's casting instructor. He was instrumental in establishing the Federation Fly Fishers casting certification program. He's authored and/or co-authored several very good



Jon Cave: Renowned Author, Casting Instructor, Fly Tyer, and International Saltwater Fly Fishing Writer Coming To FCFE Banquet & Fly Fishing Weekend

books, including Fly-Fishing Odyssey, a beautifully illustrated, hugely informative fly fishing travel guide. Jon's casting clinics for First Coast Fly Fishers are much anticipated and well-attended events.

As the creator of a number of popular flies (including "Cave's Wobbler," the original spoon fly, which after 20 years still populates many fly boxes), Jon is a sought-after tying and rigging instructor and speaker. (continued on page 3)

The 2004 Year End Banquet Weekend Events Schedule:

Saturday, Feb 19, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free Half-day Clinic with Jon Cave: For all dues-paid members, 9 a.m. Location announced at the January meeting and in the February newsletter.

Saturday, Feb.19, 6:30 pm — FCFE Year End Banquet at UNF's Conference Center. Speaker: Internationally recognized casting instructor and author Jon Cave. As usual, FCFE will host a great raffle and an auction items along with a special grand prize.

Sunday, Feb 20, 9 a.m. til 4 p.m. — Jon Cave Casting, Tying, and Rigging Clinic. This special clinic is reserved for 16 serious FCFErs, so sign up early. You will come away with increased casting, rigging, and fly tying skills.

MEETING TIME & PLACE

**SOUTHPOINT MARRIOTT
MONDAY, JAN 3
DON REED:**

**GA'S GREAT SOQUE RIVER
COME EARLY TO SOCIALIZE**

MEETING STARTS 7 PM

COMING SOON

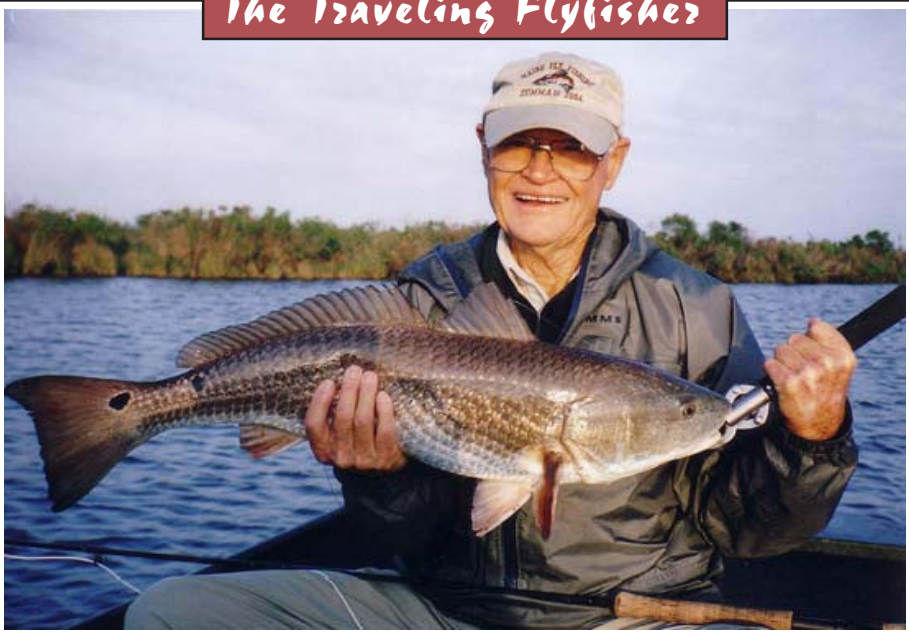
January 22, 2005 - Outing: Port St. Johns Power Plants Join Us for Ladyfish, jacks, seatrout, and small tarpon.

February 7 - FCFE Meeting.



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The Traveling Flyfisher



'10-Pound Charley' Scores In LA

by Jim McCully

The first week of December, Charley Heston and I went over to Louisiana to chase after some cajun redfish for two days. The little town of Belle Chase, Louisiana, is only 30 minutes from downtown New Orleans.

A string of little backwater towns from Belle Chase down to Venice are built on the Mississippi River delta mud. We stayed in a nice new hotel in Belle Chase - the Riverside Hotel - \$60 per night for two fishermen. Local guide, Mark Brockhoeft (504 392 7146) picks you up at the Riverside and takes you to the boat ramp about 5 miles down the delta road. The shallow clear salt marsh between the delta highground and the Gulf of Mexico is accessed by large

metal john boats equipped with a "go devil" engine. You fish in very shallow canals and "ponds" within grassy marshes, the home to about 40 billion redfish. These cajun reds ate gold/red "wobbler" spoonflies for us.

The weather conditions were terrible and the water visibility poor. Therefore, we only caught four redfish each on the first day. The second day the conditions were worse. We left the dock at 6:30, and by 8 a.m. I had caught two 8 pound redfish, and Charley had caught a 10-pounder. This goes to show that a bad day fishing in Louisiana is better than a good day anywhere else. Our guide started calling Charley, "Ten Pound Charley," and a good time was had by all.

2005 Board Takes Helm in February

The FCFE 2005 Officers and Directors will assume leadership roles in February. Please give them your support and your ideas. ANd remember, help them when they ask for it.

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Art Scheck's *Tying Better Flies* Exceptionally Lucid, Practical, Compelling



Reviewed by Bruce Harang
Tying Better Flies

Art Scheck, Countryman Press,
Woodstock, VT 173 pages, softbound,
illustrated, color – \$27.95

This book is directed to teaching fly tyers how to tie better flies by providing techniques that improve durability and simplify tying procedures.

The author's description of this book in the introduction says it best: "My emphasis is on how to tie flies; on techniques, components, and little tricks that produce fake insects and ersatz minnows that act as you want them to and stay in one piece; on construction methods that solve problems and yield practical fishing lures.

For "better," then, you can read "practical, predictable, consistent, durable, and versatile." The book starts with a short chapter on tools and how to pick them so that the tyer does not have to overcome the deficiencies of the tools he uses.

The next chapter is an exceptionally lucid, practical, and compelling discussion of hooks, threads, and head cements. This chapter is one of the best of its kind in print today. The following twelve chapters are broken down into how to

tie specific flies or styles of flies which result in "better" flies. Each chapter starts with a general background about the fly or style of fly to be discussed. Next is detailed the various parts of the fly and what types of materials will produce the fly having desired characteristics. This is followed by a section of tying tips for realizing the desired fly. Finally, each chapter concludes with step-by-step tying instructions with superb photographs and lucid text. This book is directed to practical and popular fish catching flies. Thus, it covers buggers, hair-wing streamers to represent minnows; muddlers; a

general purpose nymph; wet flies, both classic and contemporary; classic dry flies, some with innovative new materials; parachute dry flies; a pair of hair-wing caddis flies; creative dry flies with added buoyancy built-in; tiny flies; Clouser's Deep Minnows; and weed less flies including bend-backs. This book is extremely well written in an easy to read style that provides excellent instruction. It is complimented by superb photographs and first rate editing and layout. If you are looking for a book to get you tying very productive patterns very well this is the book. This book makes a great addition to any fly tying library.



Dick Michaelson With Redfish Caught Adjacent To Ray's Flat

Jon Cave/Banquet Continued From Page 1

Capt. Jon Cave is a USCG licensed professional guide with 40 years experience in saltwater flats fishing. He is the founder of the oldest flyfishing school in Florida at Seminole Community College, co-founder of the Florida Backcountry Flyfishing Association, and an executive board member of the Florida

Conservation Association. An outdoor writer and photographer, Capt. Jon has been featured in FlyFishing in Saltwater, Field & Stream, Florida Sportsman, and many other publications. He also is an International Game Fish Association World Record holder.

Tying Connie Mack Moran's Saltwater Piggy

This month's fly is tied by fisherman/artist/manufacturer Connie Mack Moran of LaMarque Texas.

Connie Mack owns and operates Creative Feathers Studio & Saltwater Fly Shop. He also designed and manufactures The Kayak Fish Bag, one of the more innovative new products on the market. The Kayak Bag is actually a soft cooler, designed to ride on the bow of your kayak – but that's another article.

Connie Mack has created and popularized literally dozens of very useful saltwater flies for the Texas coast, virtually all of which work well in our waters. To see the list of flies, surf to Connie Mack's shop www.creativefeathers.com/FlyShop.com If you like what you see, send Connie an email. He's a good guy and is always interested in talking.

Says Connie Mack: "This Saltwater Piggy fly is just about the closest you can come to the real thing. it is responsible for many different kind of fish, even freshwater comes with epoxy head, large eyes, and has caught as many as 10 speckled trout before I changed fly."

Tying Instructions:

1. Place #2 Mustad 3407 in vise at an angle, maybe 20-30 degrees. Start thread at the eye and wrap backward, past center.



2. Place white synthetic material on top of hook at the end of the thread wrap away from the hook eye. I use 3 small applications of white, one tied in front of the other, moving toward the hook eye. Use head cement after each application of



material. It makes it more a durable fly. Next, attach chartreuse for the middle color.

3. Add Flashabou as in the photo (I recommend at least 4 strands each side). It adds extra flash that you will need to help attract fish.



4. After the flash, I put one more stacking of chartreuse on top of the flash, then put one application of dark green for the upper back section.

At this point you can stop with the material or continue with putting black for the top, or use water proof marker to color the top.

5. Using black as a top material, I am now ready for the wing. Put Red for the gill in the middle of the fly on



each side. I trim the material at an angle back on each side. Then we are ready for the eyes. I use stick on eyes. Try and get the largest eye you can. It helps attract fish. I punch out my own with a leather punch.



6. Now that the eyes are installed, we need to put the pupil in. I use the end of a nail. Keep it in proportion with the size of the eye, use black latex art paint.

7. Final step: Take a black waterproof marker and make lateral lines in the fly to give it scale pattern, practice with this till you feel it's working for you. I recommend scaling from the middle up.

8. Note: I recommend you use Z-Poxy or 5-minute epoxy to seal the head fly. Cover the thread and the eyes only, bringing the epoxy back to the thread and keeping it off the crown of the fly. This makes keeps the fly less bulky when finished. Again – do not use too much.

Contact Connie Mack at his shop, Creative Feathers Studio & Saltwater Fly Shop, 2224 Lake Rd., LaMarque, Texas 77568; 409-9353733; or go to his website: www.creativefeathers.com.

Experts Agree That Haul Length Matches Stroke Length and Speed

by *Bruce Richards*

Noel Perkins and I have been measuring and studying the stroke, rod arc, tip speed, etc. for a while now. What is clear is that the more the rod bends, the higher the tip speed will be when the rod reaches the straight position (that's where the speed of the tip is the greatest). The caster who will throw farthest is the one who can make the rod bend the most, and add the most extra speed with the haul, and do it so that the path of the tip of the rod is controlled so it is as straight as possible.

To get maximum rod bend, power must be applied very quickly. The same amount of power applied over a long distance will not make the rod bend much, so tip speed will be much slower at unload.

To efficiently transfer energy from the rod to the line, the line must be as straight as possible. No one throws the line so the loop opens to leave the line perfectly straight. The initial part of most peoples' cast is a rather slow acceleration that "drags" the line straight in the air. Once the line is straight, serious acceleration can take place. If the line being carried is long, there will be more slack in it and a longer "drag" will be needed to straighten the line, that is why most of us drift after the stop, to make room for the following "drag." The better the loops, the less slack there is to drag out.

Once the line is straight, serious power can be applied, but it must still be a smooth acceleration to maintain SLP (straight line path). The best casters, like the best golfers, have a relatively long, slow stroke that sets up an explosive wrist turn at the end that develops the bend in rod or club that results in very high speeds at tip or club head.

Haul speed and timing should match the power application with the rod hand, and the unload of the rod, the haul continues until the rod is straight. Paul van Arden (of SexyLoops.com) believed this some time ago, I did not, but we have developed a device that directly measures the haul and it clearly showed my haul continuing after the butt of the rod had stopped. There is a .1 sec lag between butt stop and rod straight position, and that is about how long my haul lasted after the stop.

The strongest, most athletic casters with the best timing and who practice the most should cast the farthest. In my experience, Steve Rajeff fits that bill, but there is lots of competition now.

That's how I see it anyhow. . .

(Ed. Note: Bruce Richards is one of the truly fine casting instructors and analysts in the world. He designs fly lines for Sci-Anglers and has written the definitive book on them, titled 'Modern Fly Lines,' for Lefty's Little Library, Odyssey Edition.)

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RAY'S FLAT



One fine day you're fishing north of Cedar Point, west of the Intracoastal. Might be a club outing, or maybe you're fishing with a friend. There, amid an expanse of spartina, you see a cross. Closer, you read the inscription . . . Ray Waters, 10 Oct. 2004. FCFF. You smile at the memory of the tall Texan for whom this cross was built -- his ready laugh, his easy manner, his love of fish. Then you're on your way. On to the next fish, the next oyster bar, the next flat. You'll remember the cross later, when there aren't fish to be caught. You'll remember the man, too. And you'll remember the flat. Ray's Flat --he'd like that.

First Coast Fly Fishers

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