

First Coast Fly Fisher

June 2005

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



Ann Lott's
Cajun Red

MEETING & SPEAKER

Mon., June 6, 7 p.m. at Southpoint Marriot. **Kayak Instructor Brad Miller -- Topic: "Kayak Fly-Fishing Devil's Elbow/Matanzas Inlet."** Devil's Elbow in Crescent Beach is loaded with oyster beds, twisty channels, and flats. In short it's a fly fishers dream water. Brad runs the kayak shop in Devil's Elbow and has guided the area for years. Come learn about this exciting fishery. **Casting w/ David Lambert and Dick Michaelson** at 6 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

June 2 - 4 -- Federation of Fly Fishers SE Conclave in Callaway Gardens, GA -- If you love to flyfish in the south, this is the event for you. All the best casters and tyers in the regions will show you how to better your game. Lots of commercial exhibitors, too. Most of the programs are free. Go to their site, www.fffsec.org

June 10-12 - Port St Lucie Snook - Another great trip. We will spend the weekend with **Capt. Marsha Foosaner**. Reservations must be made early at the Caribbean Shores. Their phone number is (772) 334-4759. They fill up early so call NOW.

Note Date Change July 9 & 10 -- Tomoka State Park near Ormond Beach. Fish the Tomoka River for redfish, snook and trout
July 11 - Capt. John Kuminski -- "Fishing the Banana River No-motor Zone." Author, writer, fly fishing fanatic John Kuminski loves his work. His photos are superb and his knowledge of the area is unparalleled.

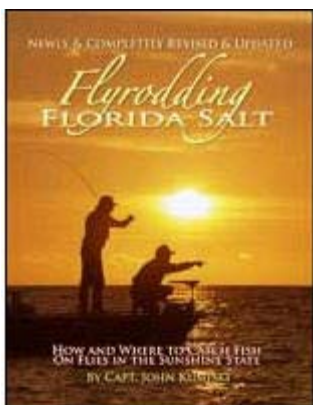
August 27 - Nassau (Back Country) - Find out about this new outing from Outings Chair, Mike Head.

September 18 - Cedar Point Redfish in the Grass - This is your opportunity to go after this area's favorite fly fishing sportfish - reds in the grass. Even if you don't hook-up, you learn about this exceptional fishery. Sign up now. Boat space is limited

Book Review

Flyrodding Florida Salt Kumiski's Update Filled With Fishing Spots, Tips, Tricks

Flyrodding Florida Salt
Capt. John Kumiski
Argonaut Publishing Company, 2005,
ISBN 0-9635118-5-8 (\$29.95)



Review by Capt. Tommy Thompson

John Kumiski's 1995 edition of *Flyrodding Florida Salt* was an immediate success, not only with local anglers, but with visitors to Florida as well.

Kumiski's 2005 edition, subtitled '*How and Where to Catch Fish on Flies*

in the Sunshine State' takes the original book's outline and updates lots of information, such as currently active guides, new tackle and techniques.

The book is divided into three major sections. The first, dealing with tackle, techniques and Florida fish species is a great primer for those not at home in Florida waters. Aside from discussions of rods and reels, John does a nice job of informing the reader about guides, fishing techniques and basic knots. For

example, chapter 3, The Fishes, is a thorough discussion

of species, their fly rod potential, the best flies to use and the best locations to fish.

Part Two of the book, Where to Go, is the reason I keep the book in the glove box of my truck. It's 128 pages of very nicely researched information about all the major fly-fishing areas in the state. A typical subchapter, based on a specific locale, covers specific information such as an overview of the place, opportunities for the do-it-yourself fly fisher, flies and techniques, access to the fishing, fly shops, fly fishing guides, boat rentals, information for wade fishing enthusiasts, State Parks and accommodations.

An active kayak and fly-fishing guide, John also goes into detail, when appropriate, about hand-powered boats and their applications.

The final part of the book is Fly Selection for Florida Salt, and will be of value to the angler who's not fished salt water in Florida. A list of John's top ten flies will help any angler complete his tackle kit, and there's also a good, illustrated section on fly tying techniques.

John finishes his book with a few words about the importance of the Coastal Conservation Association (we all should belong!!!) and of taking young people fishing. I think this is a particularly nice gesture by the author; one that's overlooked by lots of fishing 'experts' who just use their books to glorify themselves and their skills.

This author is an excellent fisherman and guide, willing to share his knowledge, as well as support the environment and the next generation of anglers.

This is a book for anglers at all skill levels. Fishermen and women new to fly fishing will enjoy the basic information and directions, and seasoned veterans will enjoy John's anecdotal approach to the sport, as well as the more specific information given by professional guides in many locations in the state. If AAA were to print a guide to fly fishing in Florida, Kumiski's book would be it!

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

PRESIDENT

Chan Ritchie

880-6396h; 502-7600c

[critchie@watsonrealtycorp](mailto:critchiewatsonrealtycorp)

VP PROGRAMS

Joe Joseph

292-1376h; 633-5905w

jjosephs@fccj.edu

VP OUTINGS

Mike Head

388-8590h; 268-6888w

flytier326@aol.com

TREASURER

Sherrie Froehlich

904-460-0203h; 904-814-2892c

sfroehlich@bestnetpc.com

SECRETARY

Greg Durrance

904-268-6363h; 353-5697w

LIBRARIAN

Dick Clarke

396-5084h; 396-7072w

clarkowitz@aol.com

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

Jim McCully

904-261-2215h

arionm@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP

David Kudley

904-744-5818

kudley@bellsouth.net

AT LARGE

Scott Campbell

287-6886h; 260-9666w

sdcampbell@newyorklife.com

Dennis Dahlquist

(904) 886-9792

dennis@firedoorcorp.com

BANQUET

Homer Bliss

904-353-4064

hbliss@bellsouth.net

PAST PRESIDENT

George Durrance

904-241-5697

grdrbgay@bellsouth.com

FOX SPARROWS ON THE ILLINOIS RIVER

by Dana Griffin, III

An invitation to be a tier at the 4th annual Smallmouth Rendezvous netted me one of the most delightful river floats of my life. Rendezvous tiers meet at the community building in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, a Cherokee town in the eastern part of the state, and I just had to find out where the “Smallmouth” in the name came from. My host, Richard Griffin, informed me that the Illinois River (named for the Indian tribe, not the state) that flows just outside of town, is home to a particularly feisty race of smallmouth bass. “They’re not as big as their northern cousins, but you’ll know you got one on the line when they strike,” he remarked. By now my curiosity was sky high.

So, we aimed the car westward, pulling into Tahlequah a couple of days ahead of the meeting. This gave us some time to explore the river. We soon found a canoe rental that set us up for a 7 mile float.

It was early morning as we slid the aluminum canoe into the Illinois’ gentle current. The birds, however, had already begun their day of foraging and singing. The machine gun like staccato of a kingfisher caught our attention as the canoe began its drift down current.

On unfamiliar waters the fly fisher is presented with the challenge of figuring out which fly to try. My own approach is to begin with something rather general. Woolly worms fit the bill, but I decided to knot on a modified version of Jack Gartside’s famous sparrow fly. This modified version comes with an orange bead head and is dressed with orange dyed pheasant feathers in the tail and wing positions. The pattern was a hit from the start. My first strike occurred a hundred yards down from the launch site. The fish, a beautifully colored pumpkinseed (a species of sunfish), came in only after a couple of strong runs.

Up ahead we could see that the river was making a right-hand turn. The outer bank of the turn was actually tucked up

under a protruding limestone shelf. Under the shelf rich stands of maidenhair fern emerged from the rock. The water here was deep and looked extremely fishy. I asked my paddler to try and slow down a bit (n.b. the “paddler” was the author’s wife whose efforts in keeping me on target for the entire 7-mile float are



The Author W/ Illinois Smallie

gratefully acknowledged – “Dear, I owe you a meal out at a restaurant of your choice!” —

My cast was quartered back up stream. I also threw in an upstream mend, all to try and allow the fly time to sink. The strike was ferocious. The fish bore immediately for the bottom, but when he felt the tightening of the line he reversed course and headed for the top. Out he came, executing summersaults, and giving both of us our first glimpse of an Illinois smallmouth. The fish taped at 14 inches. Not a bragging fish to be sure but certainly a handsome representative of his ilk.

Later, I asked the owner of the canoe rental how big these bass get in the local waters. He allowed that the biggest he had caught in the river after some 30

years of fishing for them was an 18 inch. Five more of these brown bass (the name used in these parts) were netted before our trip was finished. To add to my amazement, we were the only boat on the river the entire morning. Such a resource like the Illinois, located in other parts of the country, would surely have been swarming with boaters on a day as pleasant as the one we were handed.

Since the fly of the trip, the fox sparrow, has not been published before, I am including the dressing details. The name was chosen for the bird, the fox sparrow, which can have a similar rusty-orange coloration.

The cock ringneck pheasant, the source of the feathers used to dress the fox sparrow, offers an incredible variety of feathers for the fly tier. The marabou is located on the lowest part of the cape. The wings and after-shaft feathers come from the lower half of the cape. Higher up on the cape the feathers have quills too stiff for use in this particular pattern.

Fox Sparrow Materials Guide

Hook: Mustad 9672, size 8, 10

Thread: 8/0 orange

Head: orange bead

Weight: .015: lead wire

Tail: pheasant marabou

Body: brown dubbing

Wings: orange-dyed pheasant

Collar: after shaft-feather from pheasant.



Top Casting Coaches Agree Positive Practice Is Key To Fast Casting Growth

by **Bruce Richards**

(Ed. Note: Bruce Richards is a FFF certified master casting instructor and fly line designer for Sci-Anglers)

The thing I stress most regarding practice is to key on one thing at a time, and build additional skills on top of those already perfected. For example, until good, consistent loop control is automatic, it is difficult to effectively work on other skills.

Forexample, if a caster can make occasional perfect loops, but many others are mediocre, it is difficult for them to make real progress on other casts, like delivery casts, or more distance, etc. Once a caster has developed good loops as their standard cast, committed to their muscle memory, being consistent with any other cast can't be done (except maybe pile casts!).

Most casters will want to move on to other things before good loop control is automatic, and that

shouldn't be discouraged, but they must watch their loops and when they see them deteriorate as they work on something else, they need to take a step back and fix the loop before continuing. This process doesn't really change much as they improve, even expert casters can have bad days when they can't hit targets well, or get usual distance, and the problem almost always relates back to something about their basic stroke and loop shape. Once that is fixed, everything is OK again.

One good way to help with loop analysis is to always cast to targets when practicing. If some days hitting targets consistently is easy, others it is not, odds are that basic loop control is the issue.

by **Ed Jaworowski**,

(Ed. Note: Ed Jaworowski wrote *Troubleshooting the Cast*.)

Here's something I'm adamant about. One of the areas I am strongly

at odds with most people is that I believe the forward and back cast should be taught completely separately, as two separate casts, before they are put together. Strikes me ironic that every instructor tells people 'you must have a good back cast before you can have a good forward cast', then proceeds to have them make a backcast, followed by a forward cast. As if the back cast were perfect. Fact is, people can't throw 2 out of 20 the same. That's why I also insist on learning to cast with the rod to the side, rather than overhead. They can let the line fall to the rear, study it to recognize what's good or bad, and then make the forward cast. It's also more natural and more comfortable. Once they are assured of a consistent back cast (and I have all sorts of ways to assure that), then the two are put together, and if needed, the cast can then be made overhead.

Fed Fly Fishers South Eastern Fly Show June 2-4 in Callaway Gardens, GA. East Coast's Top Casting and Tying Pros Will Demonstrate and Teach



The 2005 Conclave and Fly Show is the premier event of the Southeastern Council Federation of Fly Fishers. This year the Conclave will be held in Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA.

The event hosts dozens of regional fly tyers and -- the cream of the crop, plus the best casting instructors in the

nation. Also on hand, commercial flyfishing exhibits, raffles, and numerous programs designed to help you become better fly fishers.

The Red Stick Fly Fishers of Baton Rouge hold a genuine Louisiana cusine dinner for all participants, guest speakers, and exhibitors.

Friday and Saturday features casting and fly tying programs in addition to the ongoing fly tying sessions with the areas best tyers.

Saturday night, auctioneer Johnny Chambness entertains and with humor as he hosts the banquet auction.

FCFFers slated to attend are casting instructor David Lambert and tying instructors Don Reed for Saltwater Flytyers.com and Kevin Cohenour of KLC Flies. Lambert and Cohenour are the Youth Chairs for the FFF-SEC.

Lambert is also slated to conduct a half-day Positive Practice clinic to co-

ROANOKE STRIPER RUN



by *Ted Mayhew*

Friday May 7. Lee Hinrichs is driving through a rainstorm on the way to Weldon NC. I sleep. We are on our way to fish the Roanoke River for spawning striped bass. We check in to a Days In. Soon after we go to the launching ramp to survey the river and decide to not fish this afternoon as it is too cold and wet — and all reports say the fish are not biting anyhow.

This evening we join Bud Larsen and Donn McKinnon at Ryan's Steak house a famous buffet dinner; we talk over the fishing and it was not good. The bite was off because the storm had lowered the water temperature over the last two days.

Saturday, May 8 — daybreak. It's cold and cloudy. We are on the river to a honey hole in Lee's new Riverhawk boat. Last year, we had great action there. No strikes this year. We fish hard all morning. The tally? Hinrichs catches two strippers; Mayhew one. After a midday lunch and rest we go back to the river and try different spots. We have no success until after six p.m. We are anchored just past the "big rock," casting toward the shore when the fish turned on! Using chartreuse and white and red and white Clouser streamers with a LC13 sinking line, we catch 20 in the next 90 minutes.

This is what we came for.

Later at dinner, we compare catches with Donn and Bud at the Texas Steak.

Sunday is nice, clear and warmer. We return to our new "honey hole" and find a boat anchored there catching strippers almost every cast. We get as close to him as we can without tangling his anchor line and catch only a few. Then fishing guide Brian Shumaker arrives and tells us to come with him we drift and cast. We'd chartered Brian the day before. We motor into the current, drifting and casting upstream, and begin to catch fish constantly.

Today is a good day to be on the Roanoke! This evening we fish until dark; we catch fish the whole time.

We will go again in 2006. You should join us for this unique, inexpensive fishing experience. You might catch a hundred good fish a day with a fly rod.

For more information you may contact Lee Hinrichs at 904-268-0287, Ted Mayhew at 904-287-0266 or Bud Larsen at 904-398-0055.

ABOVE, BUD LARSEN AND DONN MCKINNON; RIGHT, LEE HINRICHS AND STRIPER

SUPPORT YOUR FCFF GUIDES & INSTRUCTORS

Capt David Borries,
708-8915; captdavidborries@aol.com

Capt John Bottko
645-8998; feather2@ix.netcom.com

Master Fly Casting Instructor
David Lambert
d.lambert@onwatermedia.com
241-4163

Kayak Guide Brian McGowan
904/645-8998
feather2@ix.netcom.net

Capt. Mike McQuiston
(904) 826-3735
topandtobe@aol.com

Capt. Larry Miniard
285-7003
captlmin@bellsouth.net

Capt Doug Moore
757-3323; 545-0602 Cell
mmdairy@aol.com

Tying Instr. Don Reed
donreed@saltwaterflytyers.com
904/535-6929

Capt. Russell Tharin
Master Casting Instructor
904-491-4799 h; 825-7982, cell
captrt@bellsouth.net

Salty Feather

ST JOHNS BLUFF RD, JACKSONVILLE,
FL 904-645-8998

WWW.SALTYFEATHER.COM

Avid Angler

2101 N Ponce de Leon Ave
St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-824-8322



Tharin Awarded 2004 Orvis-Endorsed Guide of Year

Captain Russell Tharin of Amelia Island was recognized as the 2004 Orvis-Endorsed Guide of the Year at the company's annual gathering in Bozeman, Montana.

The Orvis-Endorsed guide of the year is awarded based on the sum total of favorable reports filed directly to the Orvis Company upon completion of a guided trip. Each year the Orvis Company recognizes one extraordinary individual guide for providing a consistently world class fishing experience meets or exceeds standards set by the company.

Captain Tharin received the highest ratings from among 1200 guides in the Orvis-Endorsed program.

Tharin operates Amelia Island Discover Fly Fishing Adventures with his wife Janet in Amelia Island.



A GREAT DAY, LOTS of Fishing and Fooding

The annual Adams-Lott outing resulted in lots of good fishing, good food, and great memories. See next month's newsletter for a full run-down.



For Sale

16' Square tail Mohawk Canoe. New Trailer with buddy bearings. Comes with 1996 Evinrude 4HP motor and fuel cell. Spring Creek out riggers, oars and anchor rig. Customized for ease of use and maintenance. Comes with custom canvas cover. Asking \$1800. Call Don Reed, Saltwater Flytyers.com, 536-6929.

First Coast Fly Fishers

**P.O. Box 16260,
Jacksonville, FL
32245-6260**

First Coast Fly Fisher is a copyrighted monthly publication of the First Coast Fly Fishers, Jacksonville, FL. All rights reserved. Contact David Lambert at OnWater Media to Contribute or Inquire, 904/241-4163