

# First Coast Fly Fisher

June 2007

[www.fcff.org](http://www.fcff.org)

Jacksonville, FL



**Big Striper? Bet FCFFer Donn McKinnon's Got A Bigger Grin!**  
-- story on page 4

**FCFF Forum Now Online**  
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## MEETING & SPEAKER

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**Friday, Saturday -- June 8 & 9 -- Annual Fed of Fly Fishers Southeastern Fly Show and Conclave** in Callaway gardens, Pin Mountain, GA. Come learn from the area's top casting instructors and fly tyers. Classes, clinics, courses, and good fun. Admission is \$5 per day. Lots of demonstrations and exhibits <<http://www.fff-sec.org>>

**Saturday, July 7 -- *July Outing Devil's Elbow*** -- Come join us near the SR 206 Bridge to fish for area reds, tyroun, tarpon? Info at the June and July Meetiings and on the website. (7/07/07 lucky day)

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Anyone that is interested in starting this type of project, at their closest VA Hospital, please feel free to contact me at [bencochran@netzero.net](mailto:bencochran@netzero.net) I will make sure to help get the outlines from Ed and John and I am more than glad to offer any amount of my time to help everyone that offers help to our wounded soldiers."

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The new forum is accessible through this link: <http://www.fcff-form.org/phpBB3/index.php> Also, you can visit the [www.FCFF.org](http://www.FCFF.org) website and click on the forum link there. You'll need to become a registered forum member if you want to post to the site, respond to a post, or view the fishing reports section. Registration is open to First Coast Fly Fishers only and is very simple. Here's how it's done:

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**Rich Santos With His Big Red**

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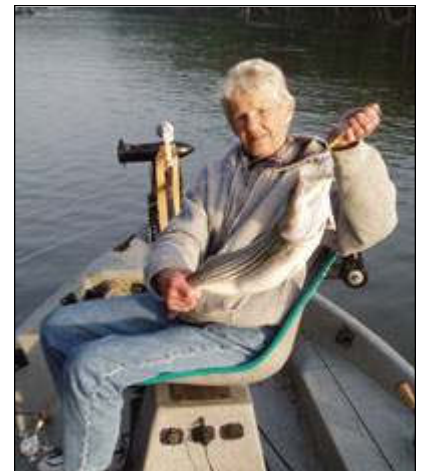
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**FCFFer Martha Jammes W/  
Roanoke River Striped Bass**

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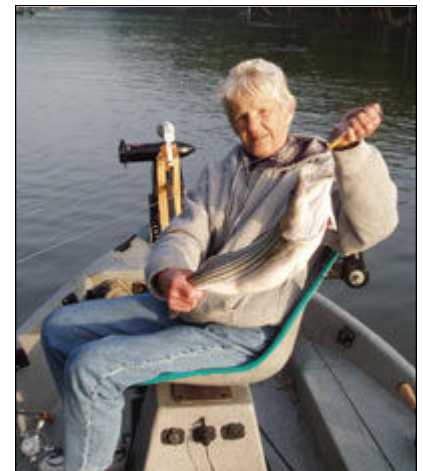
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# First Coast Fly Fisher

June 2007

[www.fcff.org](http://www.fcff.org)

Jacksonville, FL



**Big Striper? Bet FCFFer Donn McKinnon's Got A Bigger Grin!**  
-- story on page 4

**FCFF Forum Now Online**  
- -story on page 5

## MEETING & SPEAKER

**Monday, June 4 *How Healthy Is Our St. Johns River?*** Speaker is riverkeeper Neil Armeneon. Come hear this highly respected scientist explain the status of our rivers health. Marriott Southpoint. Casting begins around 6 p.m., program begins at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome.

## COMING EVENTS

**Saturday June???**-- Rodman Reservoir Bass Outing. More info at June Meeting.  
**Friday, Saturday -- June 8 & 9** -- Annual Fed of Fly Fishers Southeastern Fly Show and Conclave in Callaway gardens, Pin Mountain, GA. Come learn from the area's top casting instructors and fly tyers. Classes, clinics, courses, and good fun. Admission is \$5 per day. Lots of demonstrations and exhibits <<http://www.fff-sec.org>>

**Saturday, July 7 -- *July Outing Devil's Elbow*** -- Come join us near the SR 206 Bridge to fish for area reds, tyrou, tarpon? Info at the June and July Meeitngs and on the website. (7/07/07 lucky day)

**Monday, July 9 -- *Former FCFFer Tom Mitzlaf*** owner/designer of Mitzi Skiffs on Boat design, technology and maintenance ([www.mitziskiffs.com](http://www.mitziskiffs.com))



## Project Healing Waters

Memorial Day seems like a good time to acknowledge and remember the sacrifices our guys in the Middle East make daily to keep us fishing and free. Now, a united effort from Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers has resulted in Project Healing Waters. Read a clip from fly fisher Ben Cochran about this fine organization:

"A friend, John Colburn, has spent countless hours at Walter Reed (Army Medical Center) teaching fly tying. To everyone's amazement, he has had several soldiers with severe traumatic injuries to their arms and even missing arms join his class. The best and most amazing part of his dedication to teaching this course to the wounded soldiers is the fact that the Doctors have discovered the soldiers are developing motor functions much quicker and that they are also able to assist new coordination of there arm and hand functions, for future daily tasks, quicker as well. This has become a permanent part of the therapeutic department at Walter Reed now.

"Along with John Colburn, Ed Nicholson teaches fly casting and fishing to the wounded soldiers. This is something else that has proven itself to be very therapeutic and is on its way to becoming another permanent venue at Walter Reed. John and Ed, with several other persons and groups, have joined forces to develop an organization to make this a permanent agenda and named the organization: "Project Healing Waters."

"Project Healing Waters" can be and is a very valuable tool that can go a long way in helping these soldiers. I can speak for myself as a Disabled American Veteran. My time fly fishing on the waters has very therapeutic properties as it does allow me those moments of piece and a time that I can get away from my own problems and mind.

"The current problem is the fact most of the attention is conducted at Walter Reed and more volunteers are needed to continue this great program at that VA Hospitals across the country. The soldiers are commonly at Walter Reed until it is safe for them to leave. After this they continue their therapy and hospital needs in the VA Hospitals across the country; this is where we desperately need to grow and duplicate the great programs that are underway at Walter Reed.

Anyone that is interested in starting this type of project, at their closest VA Hospital, please feel free to contact me at [bencochran@netzero.net](mailto:bencochran@netzero.net) I will make sure to help get the outlines from Ed and John and I am more than glad to offer any amount of my time to help everyone that offers help to our wounded soldiers."

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# Roanoke River Stripers

I have been hearing Bud Larson, Lee Hinrich, and Ted Mayhew talk about the quality and quantity of Roanoke River striper's for 7 years. They are right; it's a fishery that is rewarding and challenging. The reward is stripers from very small to 40 pounds. The challenge is *when to go*.

I used the information they have accumulated over the years and did some research on my own. I used Goggle Earth to scan the river from Albemarle Sound N.C. to Weldon N.C. Goggle is a great tool to research your fishing spots or anyplace else you want to see from a satellite. Do a Google search for Google Earth and download the program, its free.

The fish usually show up at about the same time every year. Usually is the key to this challenge. From all the reports we received before we went and since our return, this has been an unusual year for the Spawning Striper's. The last report from the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC) reported the very same thing. Go to this website (<http://www.ncwildlife.org/>) and click on Roanoke River Fishing Report. The fish are there but they are not being caught in the numbers that people were expecting from years past. Just because they show up does not mean they are going to start spawning or biting. NCWRC shocks fish every week to get a sampling of the fish that are their. The week we went they shocked up



by Dick Michaelson

1100 fish and last week they shocked up 1000 fish, so the fish are their. Dick Choate and I fished 8-9-10 May and we only saw fish spawn a few times. Donn McKinnon and Bud Larson fished 9-10-11 May and caught about the same amount of fish Dick and I caught. There was one small difference and Donn still can't wipe that smile off his

face. On their last day Donn caught an 18 pound fish. That size fish in that current will really put a tough on your line. Dennis and Martha James also fished 9-10-11 May. The only fish we saw spawn happened early morning and late afternoon just before dark.

Because of the unusually season the N.C.W.R.C. extended the catch and keep season to 6 May. Most of the fish we saw caught were on live bait. Some of the bait

fishermen, fished deep and others free lined live bait. You can anchor or drift and we did both. Dick and I caught more fished anchored but if the fish are spawning you can cover more area by drifting.

We used 300-400 grain and LC13 sinking line and we had no problem getting the fly down to the fish.

Casting heavy lines with 8 and 9 weight rods for three days can be tiring. You need to practice with the line you are going to fish with before you go. When you fly fish you have



Dick Choate (R) and Dennis Jammes, At The Annual Roanoke River Trek

Continued on Page 6





From Top, Clockwise: Jon Cave Discusses Casting To Rapt FCFFers During Jon Cave Day; Four Top Winners in Jax Kayak Tourney Are FCffers (L to R) Woody, Troy, Rob, Rich -- Way To Go Guys; Jon Cave Sets Up To Boom One Out; Rick Palazzini, Flats Bandit; DL Goddard Ties One On



# First Coast Fly Fishers' Forum Now Online

by Rob Benardo

One of the greatest resources the First Coast Fly Fishing Club has to offer is the wealth of expertise and experiences its member possess. Some of the board member's experiences with interactive fishing forums led the board to ask an obvious question: "Why not have a forum where members can post their latest fishing reports, new fly creations, questions about casting and all other matters related to fishing in real time?" We have answered that question by creating the "First Coast Fly Fishers Forum."

In the forum, we have sections for fishing reports, Lookey Here (sort of a catch all with humor, gadgets, etc) General Club Info, Club Notices, For Sale, Fly Casting, Fly Tying, and Outings. If you have suggestions for other areas of interest, please let me know.

The new forum is accessible through this link: <http://www.fcff-form.org/phpBB3/index.php> Also, you can visit the [www.FCFF.org](http://www.FCFF.org) website and click on the forum link there. You'll need to become a registered forum member if you want to post to the site, respond to a post, or view the fishing reports section. Registration is open to First Coast Fly Fishers only and is very simple. Here's how it's done:

- 1) Navigate to the forum website or click on link to the 'FCFF Forum and Bulletin Board' located in the upper right hand side of the FCFF web site.
- 2) When the FCFF forum appears on your screen you will see a Register option under the lower left hand side of the FCFF logo, click on Register.
- 3) You must agree to the terms of registration by clicking the "I agree to these terms" box.
- 4) Now fill out the field for user name, (you can create any name you please and write it down so you don't forget), enter your email address, create a password (must be at least 6 characters long and write it down with your user name so you don't forget it), and enter your full name. Make sure to follow instruction on the registration screen and enter your email address twice and your password twice. The language and time field are preset and you don't have to be concerned with them.
- 5) After you have registered a forum administrator will activate you user name shortly and you will have full access to this forum. Please enjoy and use it often.



**Rich Santos With His Big Red**

## Santos Wins 'Biggest Fish' In Jax Kayak Tourney

by Rich Santos

I set up myself to first find a trout using a topwater deerhair pattern in the calm foggy conditions around 6:30am. Got to my 1st spot and found a boat sitting there who graciously gave me the spot to fish because he knew we were fishing a contest. I fished the 100-yard oyster mound shoreline for awhile with no success. I pointed my boat in the direction of were I wanted to fish next and got lost in the fog for about 30 minutes. After realizing where I was I proceeded to a couple spots that have produced for me in the past.

As I was fishing my third spot of the morning around 8am I saw a disturbance about 100 off to the 9 o'clock position. I

knew there was a fish there so I started to move in that direction. Ironically at the same time I saw a couple of other kayaker's from the 2 o'clock position paddling up toward me in the same direction I was heading.

I swiftly moved around an oyster point and tuned left toward the fish that was hitting on some mullet. I waited for the fish to show himself again and saw his tail pop up! I figured he was a mid to upper 20s...boy was I wrong! At that time the other 2 yakers were right behind me watching the redfish too. I cast to the direction of were I thought he was after he went down. As soon as the fly hit the water and I started stripping and the fish was on it! I witnessed a huge swell of a wake come after my fly for about 3-5 ft. The monster red hit it hard in a tumble-saulting fashion. All I saw was whitewater boiling! The 2 gentlemen paddled past me as I was making my cast allowing me to fish the spot.

I saw many more Reds up until about 2pm that I just had to pass up because I needed a Trout to get a slam. That was a killer! I did manage to get another Red at 25" bind casting a Trout spot. Just a great day I'll never forget!



**Despite Crowds, Late Spawn, and Cloudy Days FCFers Had Great Time**

## Roanoke Stripers from page 3

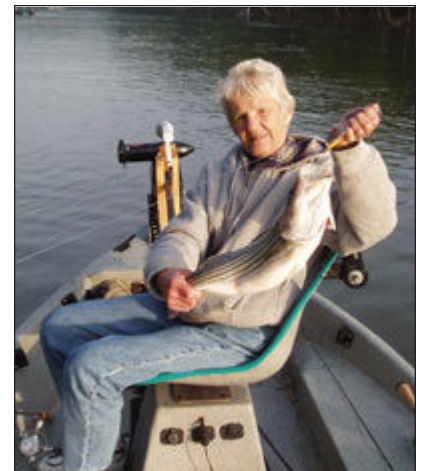
to get the fly to the fish and to do this you have to know how to cast. When casting heavy lines you need to know how to Roll Cast, Water Haul and do not make Tight Loops. I used a very short leader (2 ½ feet) so I could turn over heavy flies. Long leaders and tight loops is good for your WF Floating lines but not for you heavy sinking lines. Practice, Practice, Practice but not in your back yard, to learn how to cast sinking lines you need to practice on the water.

You will not get the results of the sinking line by casting on grass.

The flies we used were mainly 3-5 inch Clousers tied on 1/0 hooks with heavy eyes, tied red, pink, chartreuse and white. Even with the weed guards we lost a lot of flies. The river has a lot of hangups on the bottom, especially close to the bank. If you go take some tying material and a vice. There is a fly shop in the area, Bobby Colston, owner of Colston's Tackle Box on Highway 48 south of Gaston. Bobby is very helpful and knowledgeable and has a well stocked store.

This is a good club trip. It's a long drive and this is not an expensive trip and everything is easy to get to. We fished early morning and late afternoon and rested during mind day. About the only type boat we did not see is a kayak. There were a lot of boats in a small stretch of river. There is no- No Wake Zone- so you do have to be careful standing on the front of your boat.

A good trip with good friends makes any fishing trip a success. Hope to see you all their next year.



**FCFFer Martha Jammes W/  
Roanoke River Striped Bass**

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