

# First Coast Fly Fisher

First Coast Fly Fishers

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

May 2008

## MEETING & SPEAKER

**Monday, May 5 -- FCFF Meeting.** US National Park Service Lead Ranger **Craig Morris** of The Timucuan Preserve. Craig is a new member, a kayaker, and new fly fisher. He's also extensively fished the area from Spanish Pointe ad through fort George from childhood, including Clapboard, hanna Mills, Sisters Creek, and Cedar pointe. He is chief ranger to the 10,000 acre timucua preserve which incorporates most of that area. He'll have lots of hands on info about where the fish are, how to fish them, and accessibility.

## COMING EVENTS

**New Moon -- Monday, May 5 - Full Moon - Monday, May 19**  
**Saturday, May 17** -- Annual **St. Johns Fishing and Lunch at Bill and Ann Lotts.** This is a one of the best club events every year. You don't want to miss it. Lots of good fresh fried fish and tons of food. Plus, we fish in the morning, and after lunch. Launch at Riverdale Boat Ramp. See page 2 for more inforamtion and a map. Please contact Bob White (email: [rgwhite@lycos.com](mailto:rgwhite@lycos.com)) if you plan to attend. Bob has a seperate map and fishing instructions on the Outings Section of the FCFF Forum. We need a head count for lunches.



Photo: Woody Huband

## 2008 Speakers & Outings



## Join Us For Lott Lunch & St. Johns Fishing. May Be Year's Best Outing

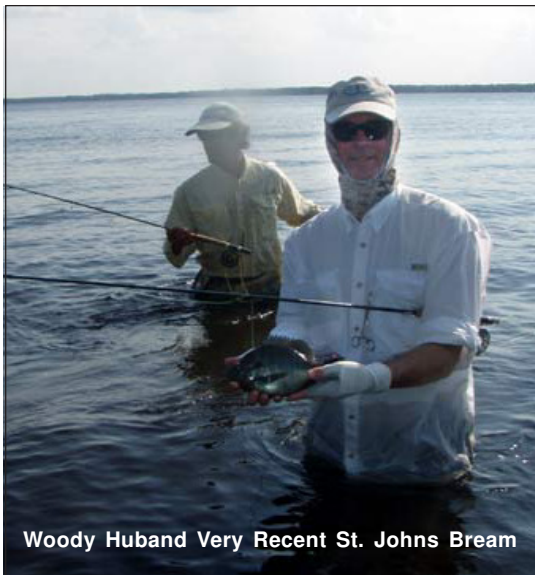
Join FCFers for this once-a-year treat, a chance to fish a beautiful stretch of the St. Johns, *and* an to meet and eat with lots of club members and family. Come to the Annual Lott St Johns River Bass and Bream outing Saturday, May 17, for great camaraderie, top-shelf cuisine (which includes all the fresh fried fish you can eat), and lots of fishing and friends.

In previous years members have fished the mornings, lunched long and hard, then

fished afternoons before returning to the boat ramps to load up for the ride home.

Last year's best-producing fly was a brown Gurgler variation tied by neighboring St. Johns River resident John Adams. Ask nicely and he may have a few extra at the May meeting — or we may entice him to bring his tying stuff and show you how to tie it before the meeting. How 'bout it John?

This is a truly special event. We need a head count for this outing so we can plan on lunches. If you plan to fish and eat, please let Bill and Ann Lott know, or contact Bob White at [rgwhite@lycos.com](mailto:rgwhite@lycos.com)



Woody Huband Very Recent St. Johns Bream

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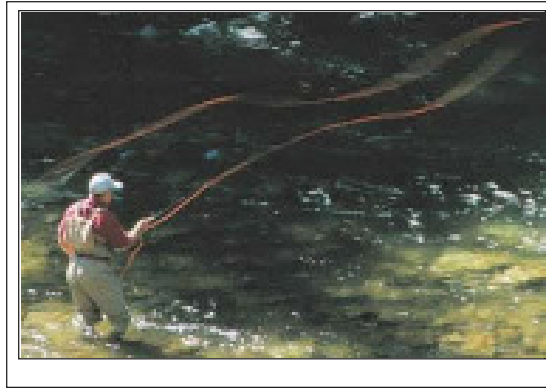
# Practice To Be Perfect

*You'll Never Get There, But Then That's Half The Fun*

by Gordy Hill

*FFF Casting Governor*

(Editor's Note: Below are suggestions for those of you who want to become better casters. The suggestions come from Dr. Gordy Hill, a fishing legend in the Keys who has become a highly respected casting instructor and castingnor for the Federation of Fly Fishers.)



\*Fishing is not good practice, because your attention is on the fish....less so on the casting.

\*For long practice sessions, it is a good idea to use as light a reel as possible. A heavy reel provides inertia which makes a crisp STOP more difficult, and it results in greater arm fatigue. If I have a real problem with a particular cast, I like to shorten my line, remove the reel (placing it at my feet) and then make many attempts, until I've solved the problem.

\*After completing each practice session, I sometimes make little notes on a pad as to what I've taught myself....or what I need to work on at the next session.

\*Minimize your casting arm fatigue, by placing your rod/reel under your arm whenever between casts....like when you are thinking or talking with others. Shake out your casting hand as you do this.

\*Cleaning and lubricating your line prior to your practice sessions is a very good idea. A dirty line can cause many subtle casting problems.

\*Choosing a practice site with light and a contrasting background can make your observations of your line much easier to see. This is particularly true for critique of your back cast loops.

\*When practicing distance casts, use a 2 handed retrieve with the rod under your arm. It's also a time saver.

\*Collect your loops of line on the grass in front of your zero mark....THEN take a step back behind the mark and make your cast. Getting into this habit will negate the likelihood of standing on your line while practicing and (especially) while being tested.

\*When sharpening your loop control skills, do so with varying amounts of line out of the rod tip.

\*Practice controlled loops using different rod planes. Note the necessity to increase line (loop) speed as you go more horizontal.

\*Teach yourself to make perfectly controlled loops using no line hand.

\*Make these controlled loops using ever decreasing line speed so that they are done very slowly without losing perfection.

\*Get proficient in doing it the way students do it.....either by the use of a spike of power in the middle of your stroke, or by making an obvious creep

prior to the spike

\*In practicing wind casts, it's best to orient your self with respect to actual wind conditions, so you actually have the wind to deal with. Practicing this with no wind is not nearly so valuable a self teaching tool. Doing this way out in the middle of a grass field, and turning to a different wind quadrant for each cast is a good way to do this.

\*Practice on grass can have its problems....especially if there are weeds and other, "grass cleats". Not a bad idea to take a large bath or beach towel upon which you can coil your line at your zero point.

\*Joan Wulff recommends that you always cast to some sort of target. I think she's right.

\*While practicing distance casting, **DON'T MEASURE YOUR DISTANCE ACHIEVED BY THE MARKS ON YOUR FLY LINE!!!!!!** Always measure by where your fly lands in relation to a measured target distance.

\*With distance practice, be as critical of your leader layout as with the position of your fly. Proficiency is measured, not only by the distance traveled by the fly, but by whether you have a neat turnover of your leader and a reasonably straight layout. (Remember, a good straight layout is the product of good controlled casting combined with a properly designed leader assembly.)

\*After pleasing yourself with distance accomplishment, start working at making the same distance with a LOT less effort.

\*We've emphasized the point that watching your back cast loops is a good way to improve them. However, there are some casts which **MUST** be done by observing the targets....not your back cast. This is why you must finally get to the point of making controlled back cast loops while not observing them. For this, it's

*(continued on page 5)*



# The Ever Popular Woolly Bugger



*by Paul Sequira*

from the *Suncoast Fly Fishers April Newsletter*

The Woolly Bugger is one of the most versatile and effective flies ever developed. It can be tied in many colors and various materials. It is an effective fly in both fresh and saltwater. I believe it was originally designed to imitate the Dobson Fly larva it is also a very good imitation of a leech. I think most importantly, it gives an appearance of life and an easy prey for any predatory fish. I will describe the traditional fresh water pattern here in my favorite color pattern; all black is another good choice.

## Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 9672 size 6 or any 3 or 4 XL hook (size 8 for bream or size 4 for bass);
- **Thread:** Black 3/0
- **Tail:** Black Marabou 1½ to 2 times the length of the hook;
- **Body:** Olive medium chenille;
- **Weight:** 10 to 12 wraps of lead wire;
- **Hackle:** Black saddle hackle palmered on body and another for a collar.



Woody Huband's 7.5 lb Redfish From Late April

## Tying Procedure:

1. As usual, pinch down the barb and secure in the vise in the normal fashion. Start the thread with a jam knot about ¼ inch behind the hook eye.
2. Take 10 or 12 wraps of fine or medium (depending upon how fast you want it to sink) around the hook shank immediately behind the end of your tie-in point. Now wrap the thread through the wire wraps towards the bend and then forward again. You may do this several times to secure the wraps. The thread should be positioned at the back end of the wire wraps. I also apply a coat of head cement to the wire at this point.
3. Select a black blood marabou feather and lay it on top of the hook butting up against the end of the wire wraps. The marabou tail should be 1½ to 2 times the length of the hook. Secure the marabou with several tight wraps.
4. Select a black saddle hackle with fairly long and soft fibers. Tie the hackle in by the tip at the bend of the hook shank. I prefer to tie it in under the hook shank.
5. Tie in a piece of olive medium Size chenille where you tied in the hackle under the hook shank. Wrap the chenille up the hook towards the hook eye and tie off with several thread wraps about ¼ in behind the eye. Cut and discard the excess.
6. Grasp the hackle by the butt with your hackle pliers and palmer it forward with evenly spaced wraps. Tie off as with the chenille.
7. Take a 2nd black saddle hackle and strip away the soft web at the base of the feather. Tie the hackle in at the point where the hackle fibers start and trim away the butt. Take 3 or 4 wraps of hackle to form a collar. Tie the hackle off, cut away and discard the excess.
8. Wrap a nice neat bullet

# Kayakers At Dawn



Photo: Woody Huband

## Casting Practice Tips -- (continued from page 3)

important to make them while having a buddy critique them for you, repeatedly.

\*It's not a bad idea to have some practice sessions in differing conditions....like fog, wet sticky grass, windy days, cold days, hot days.....etc. That way you'll feel confident to test under any conditions.

\*Tom White taught me to LISTEN as I practiced. By actually hearing the line as it traverses the guides, this may well be telling you that you are using too much power for the task.

\*In teaching yourself to be good at curve casts to the right and the left, I found that I could get a lot more casts in a given period of time and with little arm fatigue, by using only 30' of line out of the rod tip, and repeatedly making curves to each side without letting the line fall to the ground. This doesn't work with the distance corkscrew casts, but it does with most of the others.

\*Don't simply practice perfect casts. Take plenty of time to practice FAULTS. This way, you can demo to students what they look like, and how they occur.

\*As you make these faulty casts, talk to yourself as you describe each one in terms of, ERROR, RESULT, and CORRECTION.

\*Another way to do this, is to verbalize Bruce Richards' 6 step algorithm as you purposely make each faulty cast and then go on to correction.

\*Those lucky enough to be able to practice with a buddy of similar or equal casting ability have a real advantage! When you help one another, you really increase your learning !!!!

\*Practice sessions done when you are wide awake and full of energy are much more productive than those done when you are tired. For me, I find that the first light of morning after a cup of coffee is best.....but that's an individual consideration.

\*Bruce Richards makes a point of recommending that you have an outfit all strung up and ready to go for easier and more frequent practice sessions. Good idea (if you can).

FFF Southeastern Council  
Conclave and Show, May 29-31,  
2008, Pine Mountain, GA.  
Featuring World Renowned Fly  
Casters Jon Cave, Steve Rajeff  
and many others.

[http://www.fffsec.org/z\\_conclave.html](http://www.fffsec.org/z_conclave.html)

# Cleaning The New-Generation Fly Lines

*Your \$75 Fly Line Will Still Need A Good Bath*

I don't agree with fly line ad campaigns that imply new hard shell coatings reduce the need to clean and dress fly lines. Early ads claimed that that the new coatings decrease abrasion, increase durability and flexible and virtually never need cleaning or 'replasticizing.'

That sounds more like 'lingua advertisa' than hard truth. The fact is that an unclean line abrades and scars more quickly than an unclean line. A dirty line doesn't float well and casts like a garden hose.

You should clean every one of your lines after a couple of outings on the water. They should be thoroughly rinsed and dried after every use, including after fishing in fresh water (even springs and spring creeks), if you want to keep them in top condition.

Why? Fly lines are petroleum-based products; salt and sun are bad for them. Ultraviolet radiation and heat are the principal agents which destroy plastics. They are the primary agents in destroying your PVC-coated fly lines.

Virtually everything about modern lines is petroleum derived, from the cores of Dacron or nylon to the exterior PVC plastic coatings. Even the spool onto which line is wound is plastic. The list goes on, including the cost of gas or diesel to transport lines to the retailers. Since modern fly lines are petro-based, I expect their cost to increase along with all else petroleum.

All good reasons to consider giving your lines a good dressing or two every season. I've played with different line dressings for years, but I keep going back to my favorite—303 Protectant, now known as 303 Aerospace Protectant. I like it for any number of reasons: It removes dirt, salt, and grime. It 'slicks' the line. It's water repellent,



by David Lambert

which means a floating line floats higher. And, best of all, 303 Protectant provides a UV resistant coating (SPF 40). Orvis carried it in packets for years; now it's mostly found in auto parts and boat stores.

After fishing, before I apply the 303 Aerospace Protectant, I drag my line through a damp, warm wash cloth, then I dry it. Next, I moisten a dry rag with the Protectant, run the line through the folded rag,

applying the stuff as I pull it through. I let the line dry, then polish the Protectant off the line by dragging it through a dry cloth. Then I reel the line back onto the reel, or loose-loop it for storage. The entire process takes less than a couple of minutes, and that includes dry time.

303 Aerospace Protectant isn't cheap, but the shelf life is very long. I'm still trying to use up the original 16 oz. bottle I bought 10 years ago.



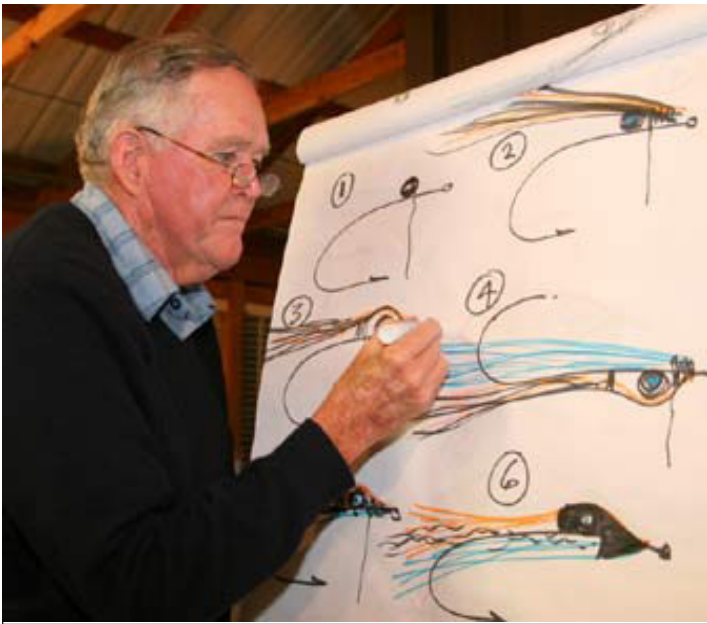
If you're interested in trying the product, the manufacturer, 303 Products Inc, offers a free trial kit, and it's a real bargain: Trial (2 oz) of 303 Aerospace Protectant from the manufacturer, plus 2 additional 2-oz products and 3 sample pack, all for others for

\$5 shipping and handling. Two ounces of the 303 Protectant alone will last seasons!

The link follows for a 6-product trial/sample sample kit — [http://www.303products.com/tech/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category\\_ID=113](http://www.303products.com/tech/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_ID=113)

Long life lines everyone.





Top, Middle Photos: Tyers At The Quarterly Fly tying Classes. Photos by Woody Huband. Bottom Photos: Fiddlers On The March and Rich Santos with Big Red at Low Tide. Photos by Rich Santos







photo: Woody Huband

## Spring Tying Class with Jim McCully

Support The Guides & Shops Who Support First Coast Fly Fishers

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**Stockton Safaris Inc**  
**Capt Jimmy Stockton**  
904/316-2143

**Black Creek Outfitters,**  
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Jacksonville, FL 32246  
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**Black Fly Outfitters**  
11 AVILES ST. ST. AUGUSTINE  
904.829.6481

**Salty Feather**  
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FL 904.645.8998  
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**Strike Zone Fishing**  
11702 BEACH BLVD. JACKSONVILLE  
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