

OCTOBER 2008

# FIRST COAST FLY FISHER



PHOTO: NIKKI'S FISH BY LEW HOLLIDAY





## MEET FCFFER TOM BEATTIE

I am relatively new to fly fishing, having started about two years ago. The biggest disadvantage I have is that I live in central Ohio, which is not known for its trout streams or its saltwater fly fishing! I grew up fishing for walleye and perch on Lake Erie. We maintain a condo on Amelia Island, so I have done some fly fishing in the area

I am an orthodontist and have a full-time practice in Newark, OH, about 30 miles east of Columbus. Consequently, my trips to Amelia are somewhat infrequent and I don't get on the water nearly as much as I'd like. I've done some trout fishing in Montana, some kayak and surf fly fishing in the Jax area, but I am still working on my first red on a fly.

I have already met a few members and I hope to attend an outing or meeting in the near future as my travel schedule allows. Until then, I will have to fish vicariously through the fishing reports posted on the FCFF website and forum. I also enjoy reading the monthly newsletter and I am trying to learn as much as I can about saltwater fly fishing.

My wife Beth and I have two grown daughters who have flown the nest, and a son at home.

**October Meeting** - Monday, Oct. 6. Southpointe Marriott, 7 p.m. Casting at 6 p.m. Speaker: Capt. David Borris. Topic: Bahama Bonefish on a Budget.

**October Outing** - Tentative date: Sunday, October 19. Palm Valley Reds in the Grass. Launch at the Palm Valley Bridge ramp.

**November Meeting** - Monday, Oct. 6. Capt Dave Borries Talks About His Budget Bonefish Trips to the Bahamas.

**November Outing** - St. Augustine ( Butler Park and SR 206 ) Redfish on oyster beds, Flounder in holes of creeks, top water for trout

**December Outing** - Dec 19 & 20. Homosassa. Contact Bob White, email: rgwhite@lycos.com for further information

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# FCFF Recruits World-Class Teaching Talent-- Bruce Richards Here Oct. 18; Bob Clouser Here Dec. 7



*Bruce Richards*



*Bob Clouser*

## *Cutting-Edge Instruction on the First Coast*

First Coast Fly Fishers is pleased to bring not one but two world class fly fishing instructors for our fall and winter instructional clinics.

Come join us Saturday, Oct. 18 with ace casting instructor and Scientific Anglers' fly line developer Bruce Richards. This will be a full day of casting instruction, diagnostics, and good times at M & M Dairy.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, mark our calendar to join us

at M & M Dairy for our FCFF Annual Bob Clouser Day. Bob Clouser is a great friend to the club who is known for his broad sense of humor and devotion to the sport of fly fishing. Bob invented the world's most useful and well-known fly, the Clouser Deep Minnow. Bring tying equipment and vises and Bob will teach us how to tie his most useful flies.

Both casting days are free to dues paid members. Lunch and drinks provided.



*Fish Shots on a Fantastic Day -- Left, A Woody Huband Photo of A Striking Redfish in Ankle-Deep Water: Right, Rich Santos' Image of A Redfish at Arm's Length.*



# Glorious September

*'Oh, To Be 18 Years-Old Again.'*

*by Woody Huband*

September--what a perfect time of the year for catching redfish in the grass. The month begins with high temperatures and hungry fish anxiously waiting to move onto the flats. After an abundance of flood tides throughout the month, the water cools and the fish get wise. The last weekend of the month provided a great opportunity for First Coast Fly Fishers Bart Isaac, Robert, Benardo, Dave Kudley, and myself to fish all day and eat dinner on the water.

The day began at 7am with a launch at Cedar Point. The ramp was busier than usual, as many other fishermen had the same idea. Fishing the flooded grass is certainly not the dark secret that we wish it was. The fish, however, were cooperative despite the crowds. David got the first shot of the day, and after a perfect presentation, he landed a fat 25 inch. Then we were invaded by a boat that used more fuel just traveling to the flat than my boat uses in 3 months. We moved away, and I managed to catch one just a bit smaller than our first tailer. We saw quite a few fish, but two was our magic number for the day.

After a quick lunch at a local wing house, we headed for David Kudley's waterfront smokehouse and fish camp for the second phase of our outing. We stoked up the smoker, loaded it with ribs and sausages, and settled back with a few beers. Our plan was to fish Mill Cove during the afternoon, come in for dinner, and then fish the dock lights.

The beers were ice cold and the Jags game was playing on the radio, so the afternoon fishing plans were almost scrapped except for Robert's periodic prodding. Finally he won out with a very direct, "when are we going fishing?" We dragged him in his kayak behind Kudley's Gheenoe to the other side of Mill Cove. From there we went our separate ways for a couple of hours. Throwing bait from the Gheenoe, we managed a flounder and a second 25" redfish. Robert's flyrod proved to more of a challenge in the cove. Finally it was time for dinner...ribs, sausages, potato salad, baked beans, deviled eggs, and more beer. We topped off our feast with a cigar after the sunset, and told more great tales of the past.

But hold on, we were not finished. No good fisherman leaves



*Dave Kudley With His 13-Spot Red*

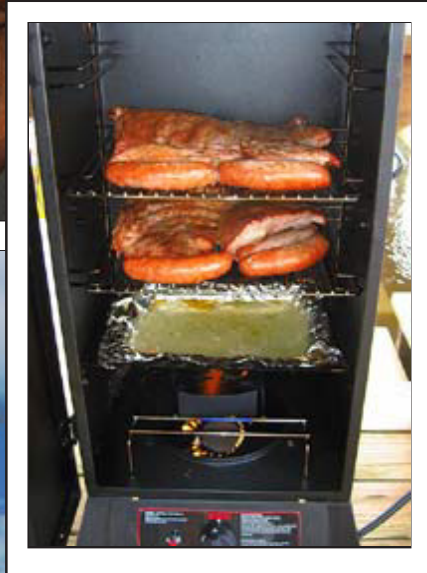
when the host promises more fish. The dock lights came on as the tide began to flow out. Now it was time for seatrout fishing under the lights. Our efforts were beginning to seem futile until we spotted a fish darting through the lights, then another and another. Only with David's coaching of the proper technique did the fish begin to bite. Per his instructions, you must slap the water three times with your line to attract fish, and by golly it worked. We all had a laugh and caught trout until 11:00pm, only 16 hours after we started the day.

What a great day, fishing and hanging out with friends. The only difficult part of the entire experience was getting out of bed on Monday morning. Oh, to be 18 again.



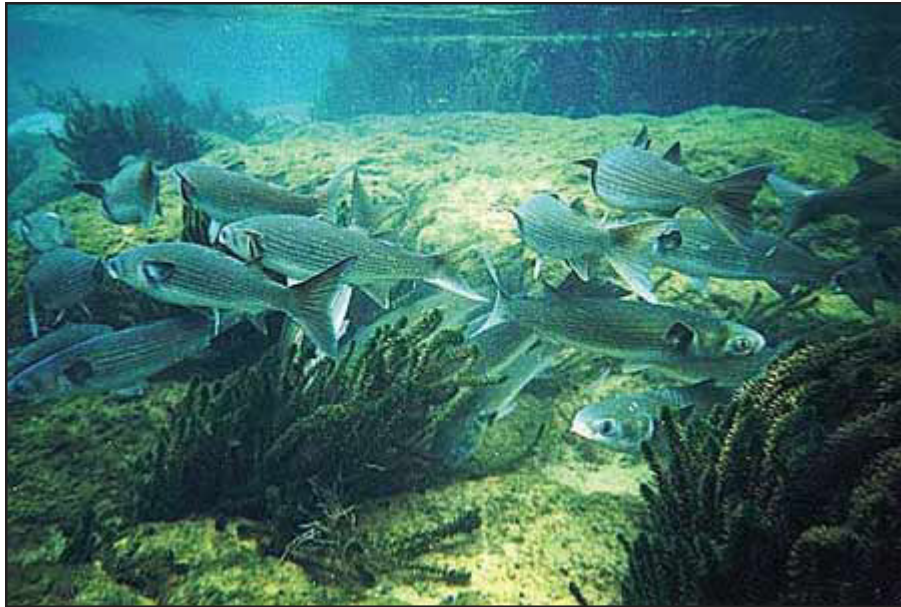
*The Author and His Plate*





*Glorious September--Top Left - Rob In Tow; Right - Kudley on A Fish; Center Right - Rob Throws A Net; Bottom right - Kudley Casts; Left - Rob With Trout; Center - The Smoker.*





# Fly Fishing at Salt Springs

*Marion County Spring Hosts Tarpon, Mullet, Speckled Trout, and Redfish*  
by Dana Griffin III

Looking for an unusual fly fishing experience? Try working the waters of Salt Springs. Here you may run into stumpknockers and stingrays, red fish and largemouth bass. Located along Fla. 19 in Marion County, Salt Springs is the saltiest of Florida's freshwater springs. It's so salty that marine species make their way up the St. Johns River to Lake George and, then, up the springs until they can swim no higher in the watershed. I have no idea why they do this, but I know the operator of the boat rental at the spring head claims he's seen tarpon, speckled trout, red fish and stingrays all milling around right off the end of his boat dock. Mind, at this point you're about 80 miles from the mouth of the St. John's, the entry point for Atlantic species.

So just how salty is Salt Springs and where did the salt come from? The Springs of Florida, a publication of the Florida Department of Natural Resources, reports chlorine levels of

1800 milligrams per liter, sodium at 982 mgms/liter and strontium at 3490 mgms/liter. Compare these figures with the concentration of these same dissolved ions at Alachua County's Poe Springs (chlorine – 15 mgms/liter; sodium 9.1 mgms/liter and strontium 361 mgms/liter). The salt at Salt Springs is being released from subterranean pockets, salt water that was trapped in the rock during a period millions of years back when the Florida peninsula was submerged under the Atlantic Ocean.

But as salty as these waters are, compared with other springs in Florida, they aren't so briny that freshwater species can't flourish along side some saltwater types. So, the fly fisher needs to decide what kind of gamefish he is going after. I'd recommend gearing up for bass and bream. Saltwater species are not always present but bass and bream are.

The spring run from the boil to Lake George is 4 miles of crystal clear water. Depths can range from 20 feet at the spring head to knee deep near the mouth. You might hit it on a day when there is plenty of surface action, but day in and day out the majority of strikes will come from down under. If you're thinking of going be sure to have with you a supply of nymphs, leech patterns, anything that looks edible and sinks. Rig your sinking fly to a floater by clinch knotting the wet fly via some monofilament to the bend of the surface fly. That'll give you two areas of the water column to prospect in – one additional note: if you're tempted to leave your boat down near the mouth of the run and do some wade fishing, employ the same shuffle gate you use when fishing in shallow salt water. The Salt Springs stingrays come fully armed and love to hide on the sandy bottom.



*Left - Woody Huband Revives and Releases a Grass Caught Red*



# Trout of the Snowy Range

## *SE Wyoming Rivers Offer A Four-Trout Slam*

by Lew Holliday

When July rolls into Florida, the Hollidays head for the family cabin in the Wyoming mountains. The cool, dry weather is only part of the attraction as family and friends reunite again. But first, just where is the Snowy Range?

Rising from the plains south of I-80 in Southeastern Wyoming, near Laramie, the Snowy Range includes a series of snow-capped peaks even in August. The summit is Medicine Bow Peak at over 12,000 feet elevation. Highway 130 passes over the range from Centennial on its eastern side to Saratoga on the western side.

The trout fishing at these high elevations includes fast, cold waters freshly melted from the snow pack. Under these conditions the fish cannot get as large as those in the lower elevation rivers, but they are plentiful. Four trout are present: Eastern Brook, Brown, Rainbow and Cutthroat. All except the Cutthroat were introduced to these waters. I had the joy to catch all four in one season, and that's the closest I'll get to anything called a Slam!

Even more fun last year was the visit by my older daughter's family from the Seattle area. As soon as the grandkids got out of their car, they wanted to go fishing. As the photo shows, any tackle can work, and my granddaughter ain't no sissy. All of my fishing was with a 4 weight, but the under-8 Barbie pole was also pretty effective. It is now a permanent addition to the cabin rod and reel inventory.

The early season fishing in the fast water was surprisingly good, but I had to swap out my dry flies for nymphs. Any of the small, standard varieties seemed to work. The tradeoff of using beadhead varieties to get down deep was more snags on both rocks and logs. Princes, Copper Johns, and Gold Ribbed Hares all worked fine.

Later in the summer, as well as in lower elevation streams, the dry flies outproduced the nymphs. It mattered little what

pattern, as long as it floated high and dry. I stayed with muted patterns, but insisted on parachute tied wings so my aging eyes could see the strike. Adams, Hendrikson, BWO and H&L Variant were my favorites.

On the alpine lakes, dry flies were the order of the day when it was calm, but on the many windy days the old reliable nymphs came back out. One fifteen inch Cutthroat took a tiny pale green pupa nymph pattern. It was hooked in the tongue, and looked so ridiculous with that tiny fly in its mouth. Hey, whatever works is fine.

Cutthroats occupy the highest lakes in the range, as well is being a minor species in the mountain streams. The lake fish I have caught average about fifteen inches. The brookies dominate the streams, sometimes overpopulating to the point of being stunted. A 9 or 10 inch fish is uncommonly large, but we have caught them up to 12 inches. That's not much in Florida, but on a 4-weight they are a lot of fun. Plus, you can always depend on actually catching some.



*A Brace of Snowy Mtn Brook Trout*





### *Strange Bites in the Back Country*

*Bart Isaac with Black Drum Taken on the Flats; Mike Head Stretches a 5 1/2 foot Rattler at Cedar Point; Bob Moore with A Potential State Record Fly-Caught Sheephead, taken Oct. 2, 2008 and Validated by the U.S. Postal Service.*







# Woody's World

by Woody Huband

*I met up with Bo Uzzle from Atlanta (poor guy) at the ramp and we fished for a couple of hours in the grass. Final tally was 6 fish and a couple of lost ones. The high overcast made it a little easier than the day before since the fish were not so spooky.*

*The star of the day was Mike McQuiston's "Fan Tail Fat Boy Fiddler." I got two fish on his creation. See left.*

*I'd say this is the fly of the year.*



*Here's a shot of a baby turtle Ernie Mancill and I rescued after T.S. Fay. It was stuck in the tall grass and didn't weigh enough to push the grass out of the way to swim to deep water. I carried him out to the main creek and released him.*



*The flood was very high and lasted for hours. While poling back upwind I saw a large animal coming up the creek. Couldn't figure out what it was until I got close and saw 3 young raccoons swimming in a row with no land in sight. Here's a shot of two of them trying to get away. I left immediately, so it didn't tire them out escaping from the canoe. Hope they made it.*



# Fly Fishing Legends Coming to Titusville

*Come Meet Lefty, Clouser, Cave, Popovics , et al.*

Mark your calendar! The legends of fly-fishing will gather in Titusville on Dec 5 and 6 for the **2nd Fly Fishing & Rod Building Fair**, hosted by **Renzetti, Inc.**, the leading manufacturer of fly tying and rod lathe equipment.

Special guests and instructors include **Lefty Kreh** with **Temple Fork Outfitters**, **Bob Clouser**, **Bob Popovics**, **Pat Ehlers**, **Jon Cave**, **Tom Kirkman**, **Jim Uptown**, **Jay Murakoshi**, **Ken Hanley** and many others. They will be joined by leading rod builders, some of finest in the industry.

These icons come together to teach the beauty, passion and fun of fly-fishing, the art of fly tying, and the intricacy and satisfaction of rod building. So whether you're curious about the sport or a seasoned veteran, come join us for this exciting event!

Sponsors include **Temple Fork Rods**, **Hells Bay Boatworks**, **TDC** and **Custom Gheenoe**.

The full-day Saturday event is free to the public, but seminars and workshops fill quickly, so sign up early. Free workshops and clinics include fly tying and rod building seminars, casting clinics, and seminars in equipment and rigging. You can also tour the Renzetti factory. All events will be taught by leading experts in the field.

Also at the Fair will be representatives from various fishing destinations, fly-fishing and nature artists, and flats skiffs from the innovative builders like Brevard-County's own **Hell's Bay**, **Vector Works** and **Custom Gheenoe**.

## **CLOUSER, POPOVICS, CAVE CLINIC**

New to this year's event--learn from three of the sport's best-known instructors in a **full-day fly fish-**

**ing clinic on Friday, Dec. 5. Bob Clouser, Bob Popovics and Jon Cave will conduct this clinic for a lucky few.** This seminar is limited to 15 participants; it will fill quickly so call now to reserve your spot.

## **COCKTAIL PARTY FRIDAY EVENING**

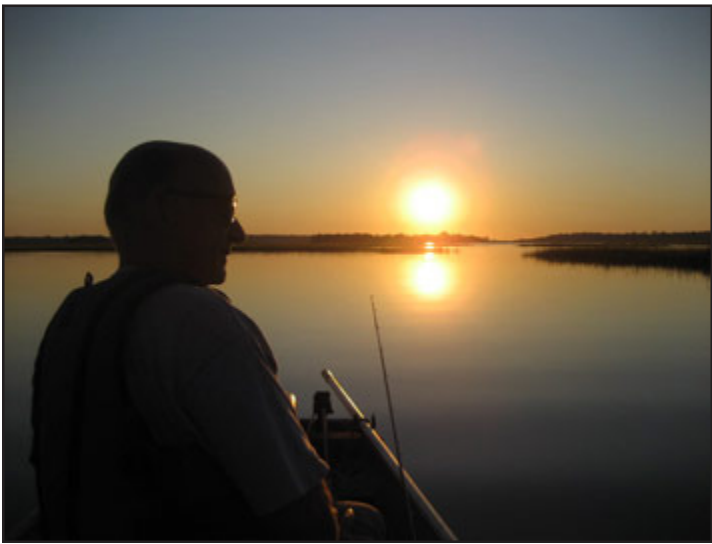
On Friday evening, Dec 5, Lily and Andy Renzetti will host **a cocktail party to benefit Casting for Recovery and the Kid's Fishing Clinic at Port Canaveral.** Come and join Lily and Andy and a few of the sports true legends for this intimate affair. Tickets for this fundraiser event are limited, so please plan to attend this special event and make your reservations early.

More information? Go to **www.renzetti.com**. Please make early reservations for either event on the Friday, Dec. 5; call 321-267-7705. Renzetti, Inc. is located at 8800 Grissom Pkwy., Titusville, FL 32780.



*Baby Sea Turtle Swims in the Spartina. Photo: Woody Huband*





*Top Right -- The Club, Photo by Woody Huband; Middle Right -- Rick Palazzini Holds His First of the Season Red; Middle Left -- Lew Holliday On an early-Morning ride to the Flats. Photo by Rick Palazzini. Bottom -- Possibly the Loveliest Image of a Tailing Redfish Captured to Date. Photo by Woody Huband.*