

FIRST COAST FLY FISHER

December 2009



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Capt. Tony Bozzella To Speak Monday, Dec 7: Catch Winter Reds

Come join us for our Monday, Dec. 7, at the FCFE meeting in Jacksonville's Southpoint Marriott, 7 p.m. This month's speaker is Capt. Tony Bozzella.

Come learn how and where to spot schooling winter redfish. Capt. Tony will teach you how to approach them, what to cast to them, and how to catch a fish without spooking the school.

Capt. Tony is the owner and founder of TBS Jigs, Rods and Lures. He's one of the most respected charter guides and fish finders in Florida. Tony is an in-demand speaker who tours with the Florida Sportsman Shows and others.

Among his many accolades, Tony has guided guest clients to more wins in the prestigious St. Augustine Red-Trout Tournament than any other guide, by far. Many times he has taken multiple wins. The *Red-Trout* brings out the best guides in the area and state. Proceeds benefit Cystic Fibrosis.

Visit Capt Tony's website: www.TonyBozzella.com

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PHOTOS

& Coming Attractions



Capt Tony Bozzella Fights a Greyhounding Sailfish in Guatemala.

Coming Soon To A Club Near You

Monday, Dec. 7 - FCFE Meeting. Meeting at 7. Speaker: Capt. Tony Bozzella. Topic: Fishing for schooling winter redfish in the Intracoastal. Capt. Tony's been fishing since he can remember. He's a retired navy chief and one of the most studied, knowledgeable fish finders in our area. He's won the red-Trout Classic for many years and is comfortable fishing for all species. you'll learn lots.

Saturday, Dec 12 -Intracoastal/Creeks from Sister's through Nassau River

Winter Redfish, Trout. Launch around 8 a.m. from Sister's Creek, Sawpit Creek, or Cedar Point. Low tide is at 11:12 a.m. in the Sister's Creek to Nassau River area. We'll fish through the low tide and 2-3 hours of the incoming, or more. This can be a great visual fishery. The reds are bunch together in schools and they move en masse in the creeks and Intracoastal. Fish with Clousers and baitfish imitations. At our December meeting, Capt. Tony Bozzella, will talk specifically about this exciting fishery.

Note: January Meeting is Monday, January 11 FCFE Meeting. Southpointe Marriott, Salisbury Rd., 7 p.m. Public Invited. Speaker to be announced.

January Outing To Be Announced at December Meeting

FISHING MUSIC II

A NEW COLLECTION OF ACOUSTIC FOLK, BLUES & SWING



by Jason C. Sheasley

Fishing Music:

*A Collection of
Finely Crafted Songs
and Old Favorites*

*Most fishing music CDs amount to a collection of beer-soaked, Jimmy Buffett-esque lyrics set to a three-chord chart. When the novelty wears thin they're tossed to the back of the CD collection with the 80s hair bands. Let me be very clear about this: That is not the case with *Fishing Music* and *Fishing Music II*, two finely crafted CDs by Ben Winship and David Thompson.*

Musician (and avid fly fisherman) Ben Winship took notice of the array fishing-related songs found in various genres of music. He brought this to the attention of fellow musician and fly-fishing guide and instructor David Thompson. On that idea, they assembled a cadre of top musicians and produced an inspired collection of music influenced by fish, fishing, and rivers.

The result is the unique and very entertaining *Fishing Music*, released in 2003. Following the success of their first album they released *Fishing Music II* in 2008. By design both CDs exhibit a range of musical styles, including original songs by Winship and Thompson and interpretations of pieces by Django Reinhardt, Hoagey Carmichael, Duke Ellington, and A.P. Carter.

Assembled here for your listening pleasure: Tim and Mollie O'Brien, Rob Ickes, Mike Dowling, David Grier, Matt Flinner, Billy Novick Brian Wicklund as well as Winship and Thompson.

Both Winship and Thompson live in the Yellowstone area, a region that offers plenty of opportunities for fishing music inspiration and research. Winship, an accomplished musician and record producer, is well known in the Yellowstone music scene. Thompson is a songwriter and musician who pilots Brickhouse Creative, a Montana branding and marketing group.

Fishing Music is not the first time Winship and Thompson collaborated on musical projects. Both are founding members of the bluegrass group Kean's River. And they both perform with John Lowell as the trio Growling Old Men.

Both CDs offer simple acoustical arrangements, bluegrass, jazz, folk, blues and swing. The albums are clean and clear, not marred by over production. The quality production allows the talents of each musician to shine.

Mollie O'Brien lends her schooled and sensual voice to a number of songs. Her voice has

every bit of the timbre of Suzy Bogguss with the smooth delivery of Kathy Mattea. Molly is sister to Grammy winner Tim O'Brien, who adds his superb musicianship and voice to songs in the collection.

Fans of the Andy Griffith Show may be surprised to know that the theme song - *The Fishin' Hole* – has lyrics, which can be heard on *Fishing Music*. *The Ol' Diamond Back Sturgeon/Jeff Sturgeon*, found on *Fishing Music II*, is a song penned by Les Claypool, an avid fly fisherman and front man for the funk metal band Primus.

Two of the funnier lyrics on the albums are the Winship and Thompson originals *Madison Brown* and *Little Miss Cutthroat*. A video for *Little Miss Cutthroat*, won the Best Humor Award in the 2009 Drake Magazine Fly Fishing Video Awards.

By rights, Winship and Thompson can claim these albums as their own, but they choose not to. Their names do not appear on the covers of either album. This is a testament to the collaborative nature of the albums, which is a hallmark of the acoustic music scene. The producers wanted to “*keep the tracks fun, but not frivolous, and the music evocative, without being contrived.*” The result is two albums that convey the notion that fishing isn't about fish, it's about enjoying time on the water.

Any fan of finely crafted music is sure to enjoy *Music* and *Fishing Music II*. Do yourself a favor, pick up a copy of either CD (or both) at your favorite fly shop. Or listen to song cuts and buy the albums here:

<http://www.fishingmusic.com/fishingmusic.htm>

Links and Resources

Little Miss Cutthroat the Video

<http://drakemag.com/videos/2009-films/245-little-miss-cutthroat>

Ben Winship – <http://benwinship.com/>

Growling Old Men – <http://www.growlingoldmen.com/>.



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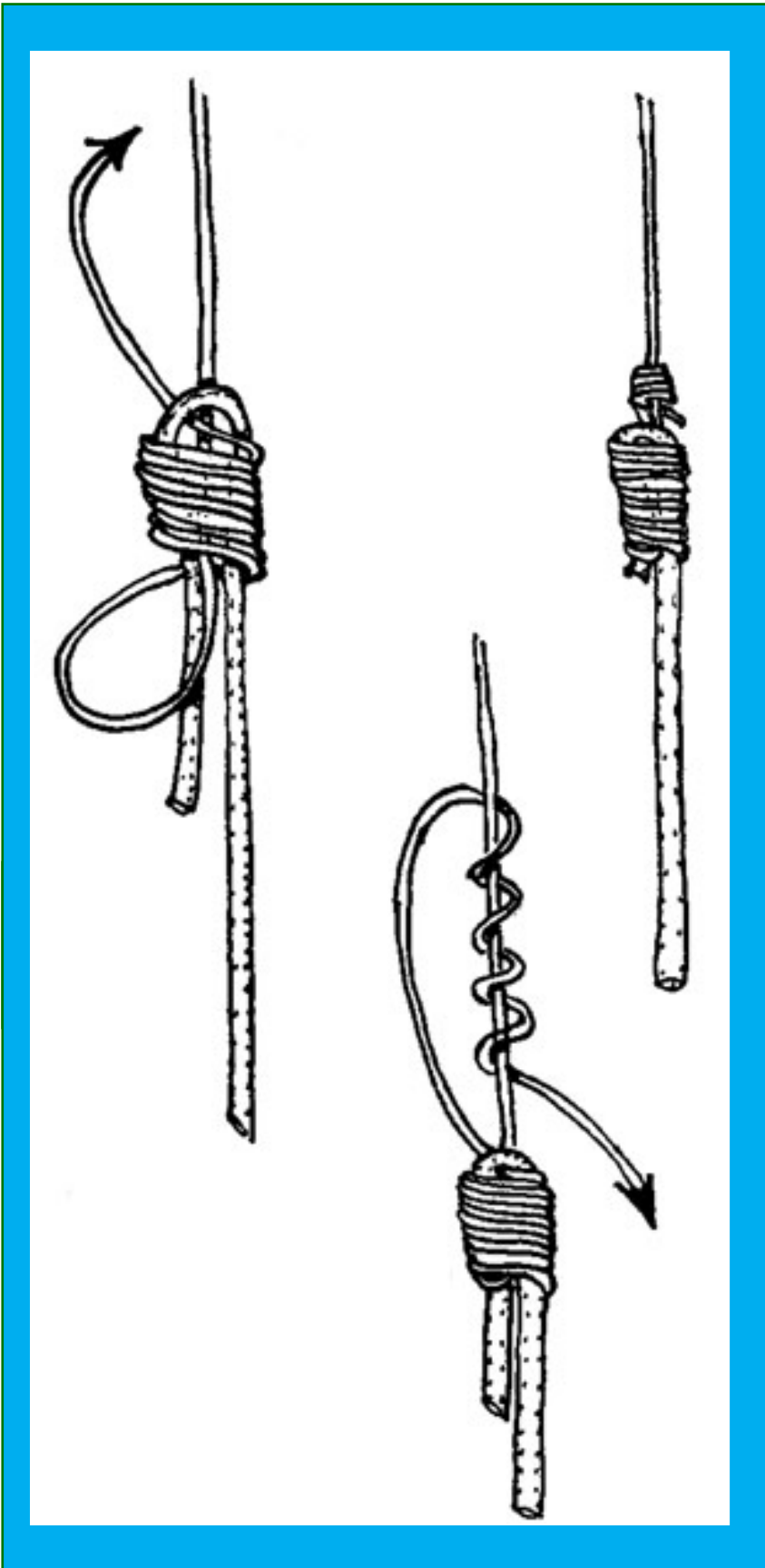




Testing Knots

By Gordy Hill

Knots tend to weaken and/or slip when the leader is subjected to widely different tensions while fighting a fish. In general, the longer the battle, the weaker the leader becomes. This is important for obvious reasons, not the least of which is the fact that the leader is at its weakest state just as the angler needs to apply the greatest amount of pressure. . .at the end of the fray.



S and Leaders

Note: Nylon monofilament gets a bit weaker the longer it is soaked in water. (I don't think that is true of fluorocarbon.)

On testing my knots and leaders: I don't use a scale or any other fancy tools. For a couple of years I did use (master fly casting instructor) Tom White's line tester, but it was much too big and heavy to take out on the skiff and much too expensive to expose to salt water.

Chatillion and other companies do make scales with stops on the marker bar so you can read the breaking strength of line after the test. They are much less expensive than the sophisticated line testers.

Now I'm interested in two things: 1.) The comparison between two or more different knots. 2.) Which of the knots or materials in my leader system is weakest.

When comparing break strength between two or more different knots, I use Lefty's very simple method of tying both knots in the same piece of material. I learned from Lefty to make 10 of these, then simply either pull or "shock pull" them until one breaks. (If I had done it on only one sample, it is possible that the break may have been due to the way I'd tied or tightened the knots.)

As you probably know, some knots are strong in mono but are not strong when tied with fluorocarbon. That is a whole different subject.

And my testing also shows me that many knots which are strong when tied in either nylon mono or fluorocarbon, but tend to fail when used to splice the two different materials.

To test for this, I need only to fasten one end of the leader assembly to a stationary object and pull until something gives way. I do

this if I've ever made a change in the way I tie these leaders.

If I wish to compare two leader assemblies, I loop-to-loop them together and pull on both at the same time.

I do test my leaders AFTER a battle – especially a long one. Doing that has been a real eye opener; I began to see that some of the knots we considered close to "100% knots," including the Bimini twist, turned out to be the weakest. This caused me to tie the Bimini a bit differently. The second weakest knot was the Hufnagle between the two limbs of the Bimini and the shock tippet. (Interestingly, the improved blood knot proved to be one of the strongest both before and after a battle !)

Lefty has recommended that the same brand of material be used for each segment of a hand tied tapered leader.* I think he has three reasons for this, all of which make good sense to me: 1. The strength of the knots is likely to be better. 2. Leader turnover and control are better because the mass / diameter is the same. 3. The relative stiffness of each segment is similar or the same, also leading to better control over turnover and presentation.

Of course, if the fish breaks the leader, I simply look to see where the break occurred. I'm happy if this happened in the middle of the class tippet, for obvious reasons.

In order to test the shock tippet for abrasion resistance, Jake Jordan (one of the best informed big game fly guides I have ever known) developed a method which I've never tried. He subjected materials to be compared with one another to the same tension whilst pulling them against the same abrasive material. He tested these on a line tester. After doing this, he noted big differences in the abrasion resistance between various brands of nylon mono and between different formulations of fluorocarbon even when these came from the same manufacturer. Some nylon mono's were more abrasion resistant than some fluorocarbons.

CAVEAT: ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN YOU TRY TO BREAK A BIG GAME LEADER !

* LEFTY KREH'S Ultimate Guide To Fly Fishing, p. 183, & 177- 184.

Stretch Fly Lines For Winter Fishing

by *Bruce Richards*

To stretch or not to stretch, that is the question. All fly lines have some memory and will retain the shape of the fly reel when stripped from it. Most freshwater lines have minimal memory and require little, if any stretching, but many saltwater lines are stiffer and have considerable memory.

Most lines today are made of PVC coatings on nylon cores. Both PVC and nylon have “memory”, and will retain the shape of what they are stored on. As coatings and cores get stiffer, as with most saltwater lines, they have more memory. Soft, supple freshwater lines have much less. Warm weather saltwater lines need to be harder and stiffer to counter the effects of tropical heat and reduce tangling. But, if not stretched before casting, their coiled spring attitude can cause trouble.

Lines made specifically for fishing in tropical heat (typically named after a hot weather fish like tarpon or bonefish) are often made on monofilament cores, either braided or single strand. When those cores are coated with a stiff PVC coating they become quite stiff and have a lot of memory, especially if the air is cold.

To ensure trouble free casting, this memory should be removed. While the best way to remove line memory is by hooking a very large fish on your first cast, it is not a reliable technique! Better to strip line from your reel 3-4 ft. at a time and simply stretch each section between your hands. In minute or so you can have all the line you'll need stretched and ready to go. But remember, you can't just strip line from the reel, stretch it and drop it on the deck and expect your first cast to work. The line will be stacked upside down, you need to make a clearing cast or two to get your line stacked properly, and to make sure you're ready for that first fish.

So, lines that are made hard and stiff for tropical heat need to be stretched before every use. Also, in cold weather most lines need some stretching, and hot weather lines will need a LOT of stretching. Don't worry about damaging your lines, they will take a lot of stretching. Most saltwater specialty lines are at least 30 lb. test and that is quite a pull. Also, line coatings stretch more than the cores do, you can't damage the line by overstretching, unless you break it, of course.



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is about to happen*

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