

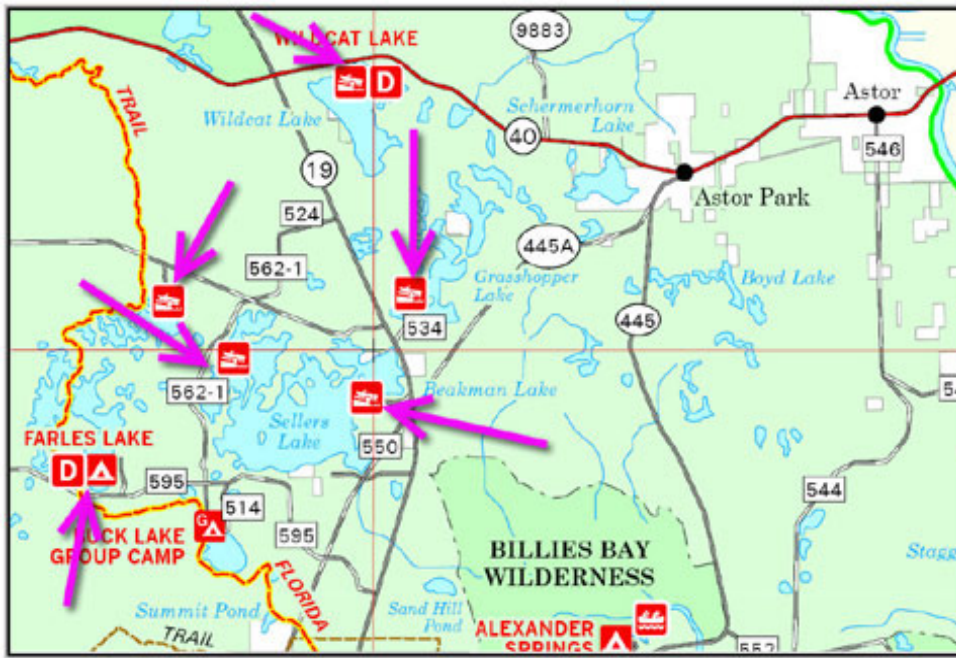
# FIRST COAST FLY FISHER

WWW.FCFF.ORG

JULY 2009



*photo by Woody Huband*



Ocala Forest Lakes Sellars, Wildcate, Farles, and Grasshopper

# Resurrecting Ocala Forest Outing

Leave SR 210 Truckstop by 6 a.m. Saturday, July 25

Friday July 24— Meet with FCFers and enjoy a free burger and drink with other outing goers at Black Fly Outfitter ([www.blackflyoutfitter.com](http://www.blackflyoutfitter.com)), 5-7 p.m. Get directions, insight, lake topos, ramp locations, and learn the flies, where, how, when, and with whom of this fun outing.

Saturday, July 25 – Leave SR 210 truck stop by 6 a.m. to convoy to the Ocala National Forest Lakes. This outing is for small boats up to 16 feet, kayaks, canoes, there are even some wading spots around some of the lakes.

Here’s the summer forecast from veteran *Ocala National Forest fisherman Dana Griffin III:*

**Wildcat Lake:** best ramp of all those mentioned. It will do for practically any boat you’d be thinking of using on a freshwater lake - canoes, kayaks, trailered vessels of almost any size. There is a useage fee. Wildcat Lake can be reasonably good to the angler and also he can get skunked on her waters. Strangely, I’ve found one of the better approaches is to tie on a streamer (pattern probably doesn’t matter), although darker patterns I know for a fact work well, and troll them behind your craft at a slow speed. I’ve picked up small to mid-size bass this way and the occasional bream. A lot of the water seems devoid of fish, so trolling is a pretty good way to cover more water.

**Farles Lake** - does have a ramp of sorts. It’s more like a primitive slip, an inclined bit of shoreline located in the picnicking-parking area right by the road that runs past the lake. There

(continued on page 7)

**Monday, July 13** - FCF Meeting. Casting at 6, meeting at 7 p.m. - *This month, come see the beautifully filmed, highly acclaimed movie ‘Drift.’ It was a winner at the Telluride Film Festival.*

**Friday July 24** - Outing Friday at VBlack Fly Outfitter. Come learn about fishing the Ocala Forest Lakes. Have a burger or dog on us.

**Sunday, July 25** - Leave SR 210 truckstop at 6. Drive to the Ocala National Park lakes to fish. Possibly meet for lunch later in day.

**Monday, August 3** - FCF Meeting. Casting at 6, meeting at 7.

**Friday, August 21** - Outing Friday at Salty Feather - join us for burgers

**Saturday, August 22** - First Redfish in Grass Outing at Cedar Point. 5.4 high tide for this one is at 10:53. get there early.

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# Summer Means Night Fishing!

## *A Quiet Approach to Lit Docks Won't Spook Fish or Wake Owners*

by Dick Michaelson

Fishing the dock lights at night may well be the most productive fishing that I have ever done. Many times on night fishing trips, I have caught so many fish that I have left with the fish still biting. I don't consider myself a great angler, by no means, but under the dock lights I can keep up with most anyone.

There isn't a big learning curve to fishing the dock lights. Once you see how it's done and know what types of light to look for, you are on your way.

Not all dock lights are for fishing. Most lights are designed with security in mind, to illuminate the dock for the owner's security. Fishing lights are different. They may hang on a dock, or hang over them, but they shine into the water. And you have to get pretty close to the docks to tell the difference. I've been two or three docks away from a dock and said to myself, "That does not look like a good dock," but, when I got closer, I was wrong. Sometimes a boat or part of the dock can block a light and you can't tell if it's a good fishing light until you are right in front of it. Some people put the light on the back side of the dock or in the middle of the dock, which makes throwing a fly to it a real challenge, but it's what also makes it fun.

**Fishing lights are directed onto and into the water, and nowhere else.** The closer to the water the better; this attracts the bait. Dock owners who put these lights on their docks know this. If you see them while you are fishing, you should thank them. Remember, though, often you're fishing very early in the morning. When you're catching fish off someone's dock lights at 2 a.m., be as quiet as you can. Try not to spook the dog. The dock owners are doing you a favor with their lights. Respect their privacy and their sleep.

Let me give you some basics on how I fish dock lights. Before you get on the water you have to rig your rod and your boat. You are going to be making lots of casts, so you may want to use a 7 or 8 wt. rod. You can use a smaller rod, say a 5- or 6-weight rod. I fished recently with Don Reed using a 6 weight.



*The Author with One of Many Trout Caught That Night*

We caught one fish after another, some of them up to 18 inches. A big trout in the current can put a real pull on your rod. When I finally switched to my 8-weight, I thought, "Boy this is much easier." It was fun with the 6 wt. but I was wearing myself out.

I use a standard weight-forward floating line with a 7-9 ft. leader. I like to use a 10-12 lb. tippet because I can break it off if I get hooked to the dock. That way, I don't have to pull the boat to the dock to break off, which means I don't spook

the fish. Better to sacrifice a fly than to put the fish down. Sometimes you will catch ladyfish and blue fish so if this happens I tie a 30 lb bite tippet onto to the 12 lb. tippet.

Usually, seatrout under lights are eating glass minnows. When you boat one of them, they flop around and regurgitate glass minnows all over the deck. My advice is always match the hatch. Trout find glass minnows in the light just under the surface of the water. Your fly should look like those glass minnows,

Small white flies with bead chain eyes work very well. Another pattern I like is a Needle Fish pattern; I have caught many trout on this pattern. Last year in the Key's former FCFE president Doug Moore caught a bonefish on this pattern. This is a local pattern tied by First Coast Fly Fisher Mike Perez. I've taken more fish on this pattern than any other.

At last month's FCFE club meeting John Bottko showed us a *Striper Swiper* to catch black drum. I tied the same pattern on a #4 hook with bead chain eyes and did very well on this pattern. I have some no-name flies that also work very well.

You will need a back anchor and a trolling motor if you have one. Do not approach the docks on your outboard, this can spook fish. I shut my outboard off about 150 ft. from the dock and ease up with the trolling motor.

Fly-casting at night can be a challenge for beginners. The  
*(continued on page 10)*



*The Scenic Bitterroot River with Namesake Mountain Chain in Background*

## *Lotts on the Blackfoot, Bitterroot, Bighorn*

by Ann Lott

Bill and I left St. Augustine on Memorial Day weekend for a summer of celebrating his retirement.

Part of our plan was to fish the rivers out West. The first of the photos is a 27-inch bull trout I caught on the North Fork of the Black Foot River on June 17. We've caught quite a few more fish, but this is the biggest so far. It was quite a surprise for us, and for and the guide.

The week before, we fished the Big Horn. That river was almost perfect, it was running a little swift and high. We caught lots of fish on that day, all rainbows and browns. After the Big Horn we moved to the Yellowstone area, where all the rivers were running too swift and high to fish. We had actually anticipated this. We knew we were too early and they had a very big snow this past winter.

However, we did fish the Fire Hole in Yellowstone and caught some fish, but they were very small. It was still fun, fishing between the sulphur pots and steam vents!

We were advised to forget the Madison, Beaverhead, Ruby, Yellowstone, and the others in the area. . .they were just too big and rushing. They were! What we had seen on previous trips were totally different rivers than what we saw this time!

On advice from locals, we drove to Missoula. The Black Foot and the Bitterroot were getting close to right. In

Missoula we contacted the Grizzly Hackle Fly Shop and were able to get with the same guide we had used and really enjoyed two years ago.

The first day he took us really up high where almost no one ever goes on the North Fork of the Black Foot. We were actually on the edge of the Bob Marshall Wilderness where Bill has hunted Elk! We did not see another soul the whole day. The river was all ours. One day I was asking what a bull trout was, and the next day I caught this BIG FISH. The guide was so excited, so was his shop. Bull trout are on the endangered list, so we could hold him just a minute, and take a quick picture. It is the biggest this guide had had in his boat!

On the North Fork, we caught a nice selection of trout – rainbows, browns, and cutthroats, and another smaller bull. We walked up on a baby elk, and had two others jump in the river and swim across right in front of us! It was a beautiful river that reminded me of the rivers in Alaska. The next day we fished the Bitterroot and caught lots of fish, again rainbows, browns and cutthroats. Many were in the 16- to 20-inch sizes.

After Missoula we moved on to the Coulee Dam and the lakes in that area. Bill did some smallmouth fishing in Banks Lake with some bass fishermen he met. This was not with a fly rod, but we had a fish fry with his new friends and have some

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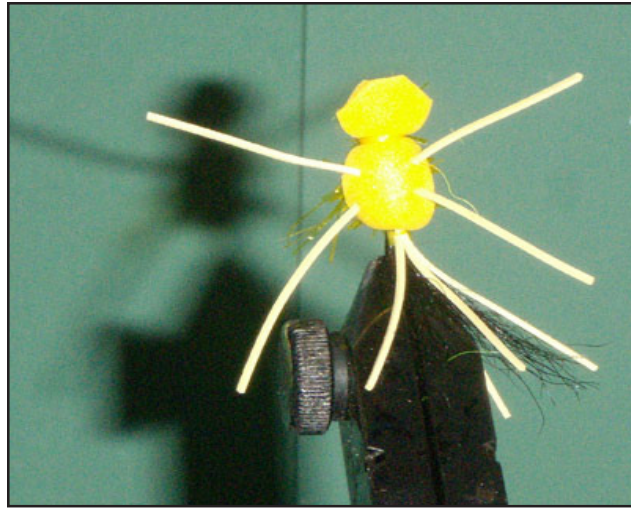
*Above, The Yellowstone River. Top Right, Bill Lott with Bighorn Bow. Middle Right, Ann lott with Bighorn Bow. Bottom Right Bill with A Bitterroot Bow. Bottom Left, Guide Holds Ann's BIG Blockfoot Bull Trout*

new contacts all over Washington State, for Steelhead etc. We are at our son's now and are flying back on the 4th of July.

We will come back here the end of August, fly to Alaska for a week, then continue our trip home as we hunt elk and fly fish more. Didn't know if you would like to use these in the news letter, but here it is, if you want to use it.

As a side note: We hear it has been very hot there, we have had to run the heater every day since we crossed into Iowa! Some-times it has been in the mid 30's at night, and maybe 68 during the day. Nice!





# Tying the Adams Cricket

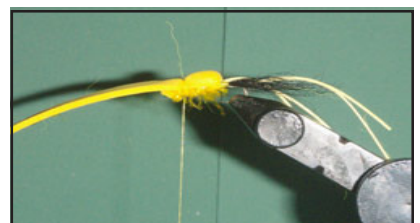
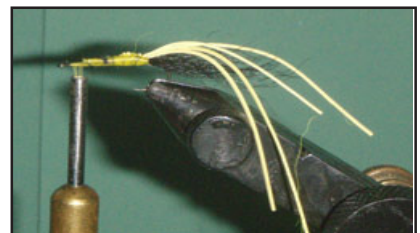
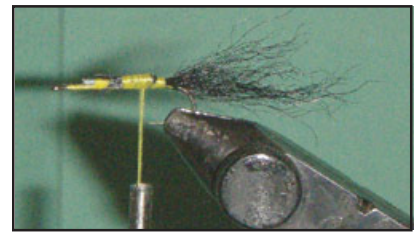
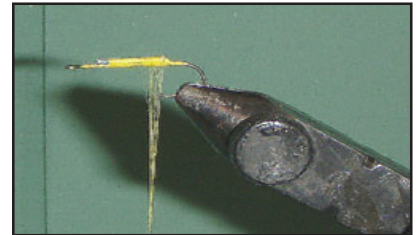
## *Flies Evolve - Take On A Life of Their Own*

FCFFer John Adams of Toccoi has tied this foam floating fly for nearly a decade. It has convinced many local panfishers to keep a few of varied colors in their fly boxes.

The Adams Cricket is one of those derivative flies that takes on a life of its own. It's become a truly useful bream catching tool. Taking its life from Jake Gartside's Gurgler, the Adams Cricket morphed into a panfish fly that takes everything in the family – bluegills, stumpknockers, redbellies – even bass.

It's an easy fly to tie and it doesn't have to be a perfect tie. Part of its appeal is its bug-like spidery movement on the water's surface.

Tie up a few in varied colors to take on this month's resurrected Ocala State Park outing, July 25.

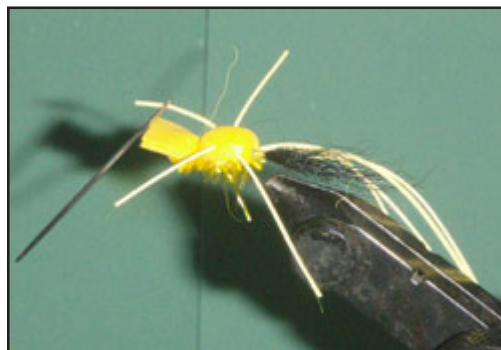


### **Material**

**Hook** - standard size 10, 8, or 6. 34007, kinked shank, or light wire bream hook. **Craft foam** - purchase at any craft store or fly shop, buy the thinner sheet material, or try the double thickness foam for bigger flies. **Chenille** - Ice. Color to match foam or complement, medium size. **Rubber legs** - Ccolor to match or complement chenille or foam - small size. **Calf, cat, or squirrel tail** of your color choice.

### **Instructions.**

1. Tie a small clump of calf, cat, or squirrel tail on top of the bend of the hook
2. Select standard length rubber legs. Fold them around tying thread and tie them on top of the hair at the hook bend.
3. Next, advance the thread toward the eye of the hook and stop about 1/8" from the eye.
4. Cut craft foam into strips 3/8" wide for bream flies or 1/2" for Bass flies (# 6 or # 4 hooks).
5. Lay the foam strip on top of the hook with the tip just covering the hook eye. Then bend the foam downward along the shank of the hook from about 3/16" behind hook eye to bend. This allows the foam to flair and provide support for the second layer of foam. Wrap the foam using raps spaced about 1/8" apart. Stop at the bend of the hook.
6. Now tie in the chenille and then advance the thread forward again stopping short at the starting point. Wrap the chenille forward and tie it in at the starting point.
7. Next, take the tag-end of the foam strip and pull it forward toward the hook eye and tie it off at the starting point of the thread. Use a whip finish knot to tie off.



# Ocala Lakes Fish Best Early in Day



*Come Fish Ocala Forest Lakes With FCFF on July 25*

is usually a lake host living on the lake who will want to collect a fee for using the lake. The forest service even charges for occupying one of the picnic tables for a meal. I guess I'd fuss about it more, but we're all aware of how broke the government is, so if I really wanted to fish Farles, I'd pay up and move on to some other topic - like how to fish this piece of water.

*Farles is reasonably small and one can cover most of the lake in a morning of fly fishing.* I've had pretty good luck on this forest lake using a floater with dropper system. There is some weed and algal growth in Farles (the warm, long days of summer bring out plant growth all the more), so retrieving something like a streamer is difficult. Your fly tends to get smothered in green growth. In spite of the challenge of aquatic vegetation, Farles has fish, and Jodi and I have had a good couple of trips there. We shouldn't overlook the fact that all that subaquatic vegetation supports a wealth of insect life on which gamefish feed, so one tries to find some comfort in that.

**Beakman Lake** - Like Farles, a lake with a fairly primitive ramp. It will take any vessel you cartop to the lake, and I've seen several pick-ups with attached trailers parked along side the road, especially on Saturday mornings. That's evidence, I suppose, that larger boats can be moved onto the lake using the ramp on Fla. 19.

One piece of good news - no fee! If you go in on the east side of the lake, slipping in right along side Fla. 19, there will be no host to collect any fee. Also, I checked with the Ocala Visitor's Center about parking vehicles on the shoulder of 19. They assured me it would be okay, but advised pulling off the road a sufficient distance to minimize any risk of some nut barreling down the highway and clipping your truck on the driver's side.

The fishing in Beakman is okay, if not spectacular. There are always bream present and usually in a biting mood. *Heck, you can catch the things casting from the road or wading along the shoreline.* I've caught a couple of crappie on Beakman in addition to a mixed bag of bream - mainly bluegills. I can't remember more than one or two bass coming to my flies in over 30 years of exploring this lake. That could easily be explained

by my approach, which may have been wrong. I see plenty of sparkle-glaze bass boaters throwing plastic worms out there. I want to believe they keep

coming back to Beakman because bass are there and will respond. I guess I like this lake in large part because of the ease of access.

**Sellers Lake** - my route to Sellers has been to go down a dirt road called I believe Railroad Lane(?) and pull off to the side of the road at the intersection with a paved road. Sorry I can't remember the names of these routings. Railroad Lane( it might be Railroad Street), departs from Fla. 19 at an angle. You follow it to the intersection. The lake is off to your right (as you go down Railroad). This is where I've dragged my canoe or kayak across a grassy flat. No ramp at this point. This has been the best fish producer of all the lakes we've reviewed here.

I need to qualify my remarks by saying I haven't been to Sellers in some time, and the drought we went through (before all this rain) could have wiped out the habitat I'm thinking of. But, in the days of yore one launched at Sellers into a marvelous field of water lilies, the floating pads rising up through clear dark water.

There were big fat copper-nosed bream lurking under many of those pads. It was a casting challenge, and light tippetts were definitely not recommended, but on a good day you could pull out of that aquatic jungle a handsome set of 8-10" bluegills and the odd bass. IFAS, the university's agricultural institute maintains a camp on Sellers. You get to it by crossing the intersection (go over and past the paved road). I've never asked, but it's possible they would give permission to launch boats from their property. The IFAS camp is located on a much more open section of the lake. The water lily site, to give it a temporary name here, is not going to be easy to fish in big boats. It's ideal for the canoe or kayak based flyrodder. If the population of water lilies is in good shape, you'd want to use a two fly floater-dropper system. There'd be no way on God's green earth to pull a wet fly or streamer through that maze of stems and petioles.

But that's the kind of challenge I rather like.

# Uniform Sink Fly Lines

## *Observations and Uses from The Pros*

by Gordy Hill and Bruce Richards

Several years ago at Montauk, we noted that when fishing in water anywhere from 10' to 30' deep that the fly anglers didn't get anywhere near the number of strikes from striped bass as the fishermen using heavy jigs and spinning rods. The fish were feeding deep on and near the bottom.

We rigged with weighted flies (Clousers) and intermediate sink lines and did a little better ... but not well. Then we started using sink-tip lines and improved our hook up to cast ratio....But still not as good as the guys with the jigs.

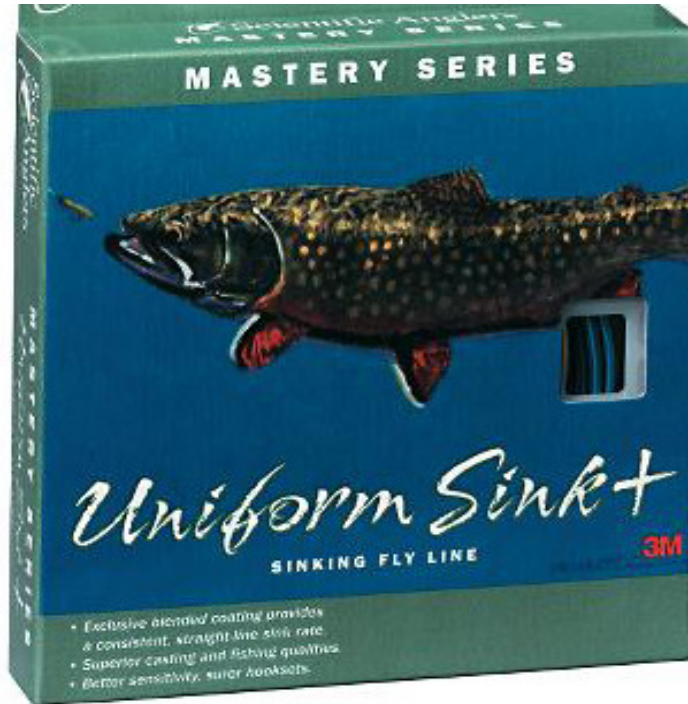
Logic dictated that we had to get down deeper more quickly, so we went to using full sink lines and shortened our leaders to no more than 3' in length ..... improved even more. Same when using 30' + 45' sinking heads.

When the density-compensate, full sinking lines came on the market, we used them with great success and, in fact, did better than the jiggers !! Ultimately these became known as uniform sink fly lines.

We took these lines to the Bahamas. There, we did some diving in crystal clear water to see for ourselves just exactly how these lines performed. Here is what we noted:

- 1.) Both the standard full sink lines and the sinking heads got down to the bottom at about the same time.
- 2.) The sink tip lines got down to 10' almost as fast .... but took a lot longer to get down to 20'.
- 3.) The major difference was that as the skiff drifted with the wind, the retrieved fly remained in the strike zone near the bottom much longer than with any of the other lines.
- 4.) In no instance did the fly actually sink faster than the tip of the line unless it was a weighted fly.

When a standard fly (not heavily weighted one) was used, the tip of the fly line took longer to sink than the belly when a non-density compensated full sink fly line was used. On the retrieve, the fly was eventually pulled down to the level of the belly, but that meant that it didn't stay in the deep strike zone very long. (The belly of the uncompensated line would sometimes be dragging on the bottom while the tip of the line and the fly were a good 6 feet to as much as 10 feet more shallow.)



The density compensated fly line was weight balanced so that the tip of the line sank at almost the same rate as the thicker and heavier belly. Since the leader was only about 3 foot long, the fly remained close to the bottom strike zone throughout most of the retrieve.

The best scenario was to use these Density Compensated

full sink fly lines along with weighted flies when the fish were feeding only near the bottom.

When the current was booming in a direction opposite that of the wind, it was more difficult to get down to where we needed to be, so we did this:

Instead of using Class II (Type II) to Class IV lines, we went heavier with the use of density compensated Class (Type) VI, which was one size heavier than the rating of the fly rod. We matched these to weighted Clouser flies and short (3 foot) leaders ....

We "cleaned their clocks" with those rigs !!!

Some may be wondering why we didn't simply use the sinking heads. Reasons: 1.) They didn't keep the fly in the strike zone as long, so we got fewer strikes. 2.) If we had a strike near the end of the retrieve and had the thin shooting line or mono on the deck it stood the risk of tangling as the fish ran. 3.) When the current and wind were both fierce and in opposite directions, the full sink density compensated lines allowed us to make a short cast, then feed line by making a series of stack roll-mends to get down fast enough. 4.) We couldn't "roll cast it repeatedly to the surface" if the fish suddenly came up in the water column.

We have used these lines and techniques for many other deep running species in various places. One example was the fishing we did for Pacific Big-eye tuna off Bahia Tamarindo, Costa Rica. (Bob Andrea and I each got a world record tuna that way.... record's since bested.) Worked well, too, for deep running African Pompano. Worked for deep feeding GT's near the ship channel pilings off Weipa (York Peninsula, northern Australia as well.).... also for bagging a delicious dinner grouper from a coral reef.

Having said all this .... I much prefer to fish any and all species by sight fishing near and at the surface; it's just that there

*(continued on next page)*



## Uniform Sink Lines (continued from page 8)

are times when the fish are stuck feeding down deep. Only then do I put down my surface outfit and go down for them. I'll even sometimes try getting deep fish to come up for a surface strike by using a popper to "chug em up".

*And this from Bruce Richards*

Density compensated (we call "uniform sink") lines were developed first by Scientific Anglers sometime in the early to mid 80's. AirFlo has claimed that they first made DC lines, but we were selling them before AirFlo even existed. I first made DC lines to solve a fishing problem I had. I often fished a walk-in, catch and release lake for big bluegills. In mid-summer the fish were deep and hard to catch and would only eat a very slow moving rubber legged spider. Conventional sinking lines didn't fish straight when retrieved slowly, the bellies sank faster than the tip so the line always had a belly in it. That belly was essentially slack line which masked the subtle strikes. At that time we made sinking tip lines, lines with sinking tips and floating bellies. I thought that if I made some lines with sinking tips, and slightly slower sinking bellies the lines should fish much straighter and be more sensitive to the strike. It took a while to get the difference in sink rates right to optimize performance, but once that was figured out, the lines worked very well... Now we make them in a more sophisticated way, blending coatings of different densities to fine tune the sink rate through the line.

The sink rate number rating system is mostly a marketing tool right now, there is no industry standard. One company's "type 8" line sinks at the same rate as another's "type 6." Simply putting a higher number on a line will boost sales. I've proposed to the industry that we standardize the system. There is general agreement that we should, but it appears it will be up to me to get it done. Now that I'm retired, I might even have time! What I think would work best is a system where the sink rate number



relates directly to the sink rate of the line in inches/sec. This is what it would look like:

- Type 1 - .5-1.5 ips
- Type 2 - 1.5-2.5 ips
- Type 3 - 2.5-3.5 ips

The reason for the range is that all lines made with the same coating don't sink at the same rate. For a variety of reasons, a 4 wt. sinking line will sink more slowly than a 9 wt. sinking line made with the same coating. Allowing a range would make it easier for line makers to manufacture the lines and control cost/price.

*Gordy Hill is a retired orthopedic surgeon who is a worldwide pivot for casting information and instruction. Bruce Richards changed the way the world builds and designs fly lines with Scientific Anglers. He retired this summer, but still heads the Federation of Fly Fishers casting board of governors.*



*Capt. Rich Santos Caught This Rare Snook Off The Intracoastal last Month.*



*Rick Palazzini Carries A Long Rod At Little Talbot Outing Last Month*



*Flies For night Fishing: White Clouser, White No-Name, White Striper Swiper. Did We Mention to Use White?*

## Summer Dock Lights Produce Many Trout

(continued from page 3) easy part is you only cast enough line to reach the dock; this prevents you from hitting the dock or a boat that might be hanging on the dock. As you get more proficient, you can cast up under the docks and catch the really big fish. Don't be too surprised if you get hung up. Most of us do. You will get hung up more, but it is a hoot to make a cast 2 to 4 ft. up under a dock and pull out a big trout. You need to be able to make a 40-50 ft. cast. You can get closer and sometimes catch fish, but I have found that the farther away the better; these fish can be spooky.

Position the boat bow into the current about 40 ft. from the light and put the front anchor out and then the back anchor. If you keep the boat parallel to the dock then both anglers can cast to the same light. If you use only the front anchor, the boat might swing out of position; then only the front caster can have a clear cast at the dock. t.

Note that it's not uncommon to see 4 or 5 fish chase you fly and then, bam—fish on.

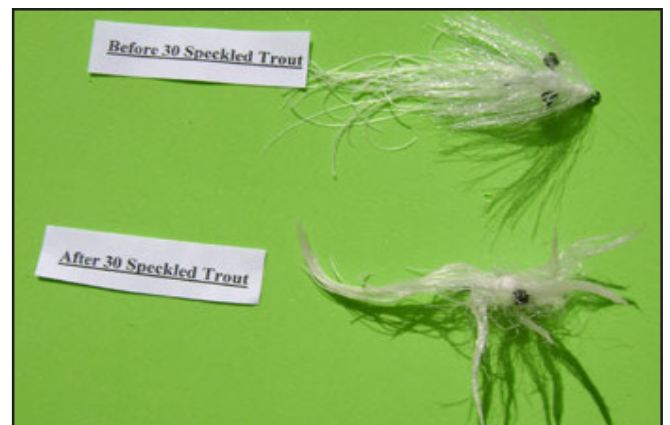
For safety, I wear an inflatable life vest on my belt. Some of the currents I fish are strong and I might not be able to get back to the boat if I fall in. I haven't fallen in yet, but the precaution of this vest seems smart.

Also, I prefer to fish the last of incoming and first of outgoing tides when night fishing. The fish seem to feed better on the higher tide.

A couple more points the might that might seem obvious, but are very important to night fishing. It's cool outside, no sun. Take along a jacket, but leave the sunscreen at home. Also, at night, there are virtually no other anglers. It's very peaceful.

I hope this helps you catch fish and enjoy the cool night air as you do.

Catch-em and Release-em



*Top Three Photos by Woody Huband From Little Talbot Outing. Bro's Durrance; John Mason; Larry Holder. Bottom: No-Name Fly Before & After Catching 30 Night Trout*



Redfish, Red Red Sky  
by Woody Huband

