

FIRST COAST FLY FISHER

W W W . F C F F . O R G

SEPTEMBER 2009



Photo by Woody Huband



Jon Cave Day Oct. 3

Known As The New Lefty Kreh

If you've been in the club for awhile, you've been privileged to spend some time with fly fishing luminary Jon Cave. Jon is a favorite guest casting instructor. We've brought him more times than anyone. Part of the reason is that Jon is simply one of the best casting instructors available. His accessments and advice are dear right and he's a no BS-type of guy. Come join us at M & M Dairy, Saturday, Oct. 3, at 9 o'clock for this special day. As always, this is free to dues paid members. And lunch will be served.

Jon will tie his Cave Wobbler (the first super successful spoon fly), and he'll teach casting both short and long distances. In between, you'll get rigging, knots, and much more.

A bit of Jon's history: He's a world traveling fly fisher who's written for all the fly mags. He was instrumental in establishing the FFF casting certification program. He's got a masters in Natural resources, emphasizes in Saltwater Fisheries. Jon has written three very well received, informative books, one of which is just going to print.

Recently Jon was invited to represent Sage Fly Rods.

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FFF Florida's Fly Fishing Show in Orlando October 23-24

Come Learn From Region's Best and Brightest -- All Programs



The Florida Council FFF invites you to join us at the Ramada Inn Resort in Celebration, Florida for a meeting of all Florida flyfishers. Join with other flyfishers to celebrate the wonderful fishing experiences of our beautiful state. Learn the latest techniques, the best places to fish, which flies to use and meet new like-minded friends.

You can see the best fly tyers in the country, cast with some of the best instructors in the world and hear all about fishing opportunities and locations. You will be able to hear seminars from the best flyfishing guides and celebrities statewide and receive instructions from FFF Master Certified Casting Instructors.

This is a social event so bring the whole family and all your friends. There will be a gathering for bar-b-que on Friday evening and a huge banquet on Saturday. You are all encouraged to attend. A money saving raffle will help you bring home all the latest equipment, take that trip of a lifetime or acquire those wonderful toys all flyfishers need.

Accommodations are beautiful and Ramada has shown their support by offering heavily discounted room rates and free breakfast to all who can stay. In addition they will be donating to the council for everyone who rooms with them. So... your stay will assist the council in bringing the services of the FFF to all Florida anglers.

Fly fishing, fly casting and fly tying demonstrations, presentations, programs and workshops by Jon Cave,

Oscar Fileu, Tom Logan, Bill Bishop, Mark Sedotti, Mark Hatter, Dr. Rob Robbins, Joe Mahler, Mark and Alice Stevens, Ed Chamberlain, Dr. Aaron Adams

Displays of fly fishing products by manufacturers and retailers organized by Master Instructor David Olson

A 5 wt Combination Accuracy and Distance event hosted by the newly formed Sunshine State Casting Club

The Smart Casts Casting Game hosted by Master Instructor David Lambert

Testing for FFF Certified Instructor and FFF Master Instructor candidates

Fly Fishing Southwest Florida - A presentation by Certified Instructor Joe Mahler

Intermediate/Advanced Casting Clinic by Master Instructor Ed Chamberlain

Basic Casting Instruction by Certified Instructor Mark and Alice Stevens

Tarpon Fishing - A presentation by expert angler Bill Bishop, author of High Rollers, an experts perspective on tarpon.

Photographing Fish - A presentation by noted photographer Mark Hatter

Fly Fishing the Florida Keys - A presentation by Capt Richard Keating

Quetico Provincial Park

*A
Smallmouth
Trip Into
Canada
Becomes The
Trip of A
Lifetime*

by John Morford

This past June I had the opportunity to fly-fish the Boundary Waters Canoe Area around Ely, Minnesota and Quetico Provincial Park north of Ely in Ontario, Canada. Outfitting was handled by Don Beans, Jasper Creek Guide Service, and guide Dean Bushey, Day one we fished the canoe area by canoe on the US side.

I ended the day with 20 bass – 19 smallmouth and one largemouth – plenty for a great shore lunch but Dean promised fishing would be even better in Quetico. Most fish today were taken on top with poppers with a few taken on streamers. Average size was between 2 and 2 ½ lbs, largest was 3 ½ lbs.

Day two, after checking in with the remote Canadian Ranger Station, we ventured into Quetico a total of 35 miles from the nearest road – 20 miles by motorized towboat and 15 miles canoeing. The canoeing included six portages with varying degrees of boulders, rocks, mud, and downed trees. One portage was over one mile in length. Not for the faint of heart. Arriving too pooped to fish (twelve hours total) we set up camp on a beautiful island, cooked dinner and



retired early looking forward to fishing early in the morning. This place that Dean named Bass Camp Lake is one of the most beautiful and pristine parts of nature I have ever seen.

After a great bacon and egg breakfast on day three, Dean's prediction of better fishing started with a 2 ½ lb smallie on my second cast and continued to improve throughout the day. It became what I now know to be the best fishing day of my life. I ended the day with 60 bass – and I am not talking dinks. Average size was between 2 and 2 ½ lbs with plenty of 3 and 3 ½ lbs, and two fish pushing four. All were caught on top with poppers. About 70% smallies and 30% largemouth. It should also be noted that these largemouth do not just jump twice and give up. They fight almost as hard as the smallies whose fighting ability



crawfish streamer pattern in search of “the big guy.” Couldn’t find the big one but did catch another 14. A short fishing session late afternoon brings only 2 fish but I lost one that was pushing 5 lbs. After dinner brings redemption with another 17 fish – mostly largemouth over 2 lbs, all on poppers. Total 44 for the day.

Day six we fish early morning and I take another 14 fish, mostly smallies, 2 to 2 ½ lbs, after which we eat breakfast and break camp. We were here for 3 ½ days and did not see another person. Dean estimated, that based on the amount of firewood on the ground, that no one had camped here in over two years. Without a doubt one of the most beautiful places on earth. We didn’t see any moose or wolves but lost count of the eagles – at least 4 to 5 a day.

It took a day and a half to return by our canoe route and six portages to the towboat pickup. Including the 15 nice bluegill I caught while waiting on the towboat, and 2 northern pike, I caught over 200 fish for the trip. Thanks goes out to Dean for the fish and the great shore breakfasts, lunches and dinners. God willing, I guess you know where I will be with my 7 wt the third week of June 2010.

Ps: anyone wanting additional information on Jasper Creek Outfitters and guide Dean Bushey, give me a call.



is legendary. We celebrated with cocktails and a steak dinner.

After a large mayfly hatch overnight with the fish gorging themselves, my expectations for day four were cautious at best. Fishing slowed somewhat with my catching only 20 fish on our morning trip – mostly largemouth, same size, taken on poppers. The weather was warm, so we decided to sit out the heat of the day, have an early dinner, and fish until dark. The strategy paid off and I somewhat redeemed myself by catching another 30 fish. Total of 50 for the day. Largest pushing 4 lbs. Maybe 60% smallies, 40% largemouth. Overnight brought a huge mayfly spinner fall and my expectations were lowered again. Fishing did slow on day five with my catching only 11 fish in the morning – all on poppers. Late morning I switched to a

Addicted To Grass

*When A
Fly Fisher
Begins To
Think Outside
The Boat*

by Woody Huband



photo by Woody Huband

This summer being the 40th anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival, one might misinterpret the title of this article. Don't get any wrong ideas, we are talking about the best fishing Northeast Florida has to offer.

As a youth living on a lake in Central Florida, I probably covered more miles of knee deep water than a two tour Viet Nam grunt. Wading the shoreline was my way of fishing until my Dad came home with a Grumman canoe on my 13th birthday.

Fast forward about 40 years to a FCFE September outing in 2005. Dick Choate, who is responsible for my membership in the club, volunteered to show me the nuances of fishing in the grass. That's probably a bit of a stretch since I had never done it, and didn't know a thing about it. We made the short paddle across the intracoastal from Cedar Point, and stepped out onto a flat that was beginning to flood.

As I faced into the mid morning sun and stared across this expanse of grass, I knew this would be something special. There was, however, one huge problem... everything was so confusing. How was I going to see a fish tail in this kaleidoscope of shapes formed by grass, snails, bubbles, reflections, and floating debris?

This flooded plain, that looked so serene from the boat, was alive. Mullet darted everywhere, and crabs were climbing the grass to escape the flood. The triangles formed by spartina stalks leaning against each other at a 45 degree angle looked like tails. This was occasionally

enhanced by a layer of dark surface film which filled the gap like the solution in a child's bubble blower. You've seen it, looks just like a tail. As we waded, I guess I imagined a dozen redfish.

Then all the motion froze in my mind as I spotted the real deal. It was like gazing across a stadium full of fans until you lock in on your friend waving at you. How could you have not seen that. I quickly found out that seeing redfish and catching redfish were as different as watching Nolan Ryan's fastball and hitting Nolan Ryan's fastball.

I learned a lot that first season of wading for reds. I don't remember catching many, but time on the water teaches you many things. Redfish became easier to spot. I learned that I needed to be a better caster. A happy fish is not going to leave his dinner, so there is no need to rush a cast. Paddling and walking without creating pressure waves, essential to approaching fish, became easier and easier. I was getting much closer to the fish. Eventually, the fish I began to catch made paying my dues well worth the effort.

As you learn the habits of the fish, the anxiety and the excitement of a redfish close encounter begin to fade. That's not a bad thing. In fact, it's really good. You feel comfortable walking up to a fish and watching him before you cast, fully expecting him eat the fly. You are no longer a spectator in the stands, you're standing in the batter's box. Make your cast, wait for the big swirl in the water as the fish eats, and the next couple of minutes is as good as it gets.



You May Be A Fly Tyer

by Dick Michaelson

If you have 10 or more large Plano boxes full of flies you tied then **you are a fly tier**. FCFF has a lot of people that fall into this category. Since we are a fly fishing club, we can never have too many fly tiers. I know a lot of bait fishermen (myself included) and I enjoy catching fish on light spinning tackle. For inshore fishermen the process is pretty simple. You put the bait on a hook and try to throw it in front of a fish. Fly fishing is a process that I can enjoy even when I am not on the water.

I have been fly fishing since 1996; it can take over you life. You can enjoy fly tying even when you cannot go fly fishing. Fly casting is the first big hurdle you have to overcome in this sport. Once you learn to cast you can start catching fish.

The first fish you catch on your fly rod is a real accomplishment. There are a lot of additional sidelines in fly fishing that are fun and rewarding, among the: casting, rod building, leader construction, rigging from the backing to the fly, fly lines, leaders, knots, Knots and more knots, and lets not forget fly tying.

The very first thing the fish comes in contact with is your fly. The first fish you catch on a fly you tied is a real hoot and you are on you way to becoming a full fledged Fly Tier.

I have done all the above since I started fly fishing. The only thing I have not done on a regular basic is build my own fly rod. If you want to know about rod building ask Bart or Rob, they have built some nice rods

The problem with fly tying is that it can take over you life. . .and a small part of your home. I have a roll-top desk in my room and it makes a nice fly tying station. When I close it up, my room almost looks normal.

For those who do not have a room, there are some nice fly tying stations on the market that you can set up with little effort.

To tie flies you need some material, the more the better. You have three good fly tying sources in Jacksonville. Don Reed's Saltwaterflytiers.com, Salty Feather Fly Shop and Black Fly Outfitters. All of these owners are members of FCFF.

And the club offers fly tying lessons twice a year. Our club has some very good tiers with a lot of talent. In these lessons, the club supplies everything you need to take the fly tying class. All you have to do is show up.

To know for certain if you're a fly tier, take the following test:

YOU ARE A FLY TIER IF:

If you give flies away to friends so you can tie more then **you are a fly tier**.

If you tie flies during t.v. commercials then **you are a commercial fly tier**.

If you break flies off when you hang them on an oyster bed instead of retrieving them, then **you are a fly tier**.

(continued on page 8)



Fly Tyer, continued from page 7

If you go into a Wallgreens Drug Store and go directly to the nail polish display then **you are a fly tier.**

If you give flies away to a stranger, you met while wading a grass flat then **you are a fly tier.**

If you look differently then you used to at road kill, then **you are a fly tier.**

If you like to go to the craft store with your wife or girlfriend, then **you are a fly tier.**

**Meeting
Monday, Sept. 14
Capt. David Borries
Tells How & Where To
Fish in the Grass**



**Outing Saturday,
Sept. 19
Launch From Be-
neath Palm Valley
Bridge at Roscoe
Blvd and SR 210
at 8:30, East Side.
Come To Meet-
ing for Lunch and
Launch Information**

If you are single and like to go to craft stores, then **you are a fly tier.**

If you look at a women's fur with envy (and not the women), then **you are a fly tier.**

If you look at packing material and wonder if you can make a fly from it then you are a fly tier.

See if we can keep this list going. If you have a, "then you are a fly tier", send it to Dick Michaeson for the next newsletter. This could be fun.



Grass Fishing Gallery

The 2009 grass fishing has been excellent. If you haven't availed yourself of this fishing opportunity, come to the outing Saturday, Sept 19. Meet us under the Palm Valley Bridge. Photos: Top left, Brad Bravo with his first grass caught red. Top right - Bartman at night. Bottom - Capt. John Atchison with an unhappy friend.

photo by Woody Huband



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