



# First Coast Fly Fishers

JULY 2010

SHARK IN SURF PHOTO BY ROB BENARDO



**Saltwater  
Flytyers**



**Whats new at  
Black Fly  
OUTFITTER**

Black Fly is now  
the exclusive  
dealer for

HARDY & GREYS LIMITED

**Fly Fishing Film Tour**

Tickets on sale at

**Black Fly**

**Only \$12.00**

**New  
Hardy Softshell Jacket**

Better quality  
than Simms  
for only  
half the price

**Saltwater Fly Tyers  
is now part of  
Black Fly  
You wont believe  
our fly tying materials**

**904-997-2220**

**blackflyoutfitter.com**

## First Coast Fly Fishers 2010 Officers and Board

**President**  
Robert Benardo  
Robert@fcff.org  
**VP Programs**  
Dennis Holt  
programs@fcff.org  
**VP Outings**  
committee  
outings@fcff.org  
**Treasurer**  
John Adams  
treasurer@fcff.org  
**Secretary**  
Brad Bravo  
secretary@fcff.org  
**Membership**  
Seth Nehrke  
membership@fcff.org  
**Education**  
Bart Isaac  
education@fcff.org  
**Librarian**  
Troy James  
library@fcff.org  
**Banquet**  
Don Edlin  
**At Large**  
Jim Fallon  
Ken Nimnich  
**Newsletter**  
David Lambert  
editor@onwaterjournal.com

**Cover Photo: George Lyncker**



# Fishing Little Talbot Island



*by Don Edlin*

Jim, Rob, Val and myself went into Talbot this morning. It was a perfect morning -- beautiful clear water, no wind, small waves, and jacks busting pogy pods all around. I really thought we would just catch red after red in perfect conditions. But someone forgot to tell the reds to show up as they have for the last three weeks!! It was just a good reminder of why it is called fishing and not catching. Rob, the fish magnet, did catch a nice Pompano blind casting to the seam while we waited for the tide to come in. Val did see three reds and have one take the fly but bust off on a rusty hook. It was a good walk with good company and a great lunch after as we discussed the couldas, shouldas and wouldas to see and catch fish on such a beautiful morning.

ROB BENARDO. TOP WITH TALBOT ISLAND POMPAÑO; DON EDLIN. BOTTOM. WITH TALBOT SILVER RED



# IT'S ALBIE TIME

Last time I fished for these speedsters I lost a brand new intermediate line to a poorly tied knot

*by David Lambert*

It was last year that I leaned hard on a fish in the inlet off Pensacola. I was trying to stop her from taking out more of my backing. She was my first false albacore of the season and I got the sudden insight that I was fishing with my casting demo rig, that maybe my knots weren't tied for speedy fish. The rod itself would not be the problem, but the backing and line, well, who knows.

My demo reel is strung with a nine-weight distance taper line. The taper helps me demonstrate distance casting. Attached to the rear of the line is another 25 feet of a PVC coated running line. I made the braided loop-to-loop assembly myself late one

night when I had been on the receiving end of a few beers.

Therein lay my worries; last time I fished for these speedsters I lost a brand new intermediate line to a poorly tied knot. I might have had a few beers the night before that, too, I recalled as my rod bent double in this Florida water and my backing knot raced out for the third time.

Last time I fished for false albies was in Harker's Island, North Carolina with my friend and fellow casting instructor Gary Taylor, of Calhoun, TN. One of the lesser hurricanes had crossed land from Gulf to East Coast the evening before we boarded Capt. Sarah Gardner's 20-foot Parker for a three day slug-fest with false albacore, the fish known as albies, or Fat Alberts. The day began squirrely, then got worse. By the time we hit Bogue Sound the seas had built to five feet and the winds climbed to 20+ knots. Then the rains came, hard and sheeting. Just after the first rain, the albies showed up by the hundreds, possibly thousands.

We stayed and fished the inclement weather because we were having such a great time that neither Gary nor I, nor Sarah for that matter, wanted to go in.

Imagine attaching a fly line to a torpedo, then trying to coax it to the reel. That's what a 15 pound false albacore feels like. . . and that's how much fun they are to catch. They take line fast, much faster than a bonefish. And they take special pleasure in exposing backing knots which haven't seen the daylight in years.

Seeing one's backing knot come and go does not inspire confidence. I believe it was the fifth time I

saw this connection on a particular fish that I began to wonder whether or not it would hold. Then it escaped my rod again like a Ferrari leaving the Dairy Queen, ticking the snake guides on its way out.

This time I couldn't stop the fish. He was a biggie, and he'd been working out. We'd already broken two rods and burnt up an Islander reel. I didn't want this last rod to explode, so maybe I didn't pressure the fish as much as I might have. That's a mistake with a fish capable of stunning bursts of speed and NFL endurance.

And speed it did. Matter of fact, this fish had 200+ yards of backing out on me and was still going. That's two football fields. Shrimp boats motored between me and the fish.

"They're going to cut me off," I yelled to Sarah.

"Pressure him, pressure him," she yelled back.

I pressured the fish, bent my rod from the butt. My knees ached from using the casting deck as a brace. Around us the winds howled, and the waves banged us about. Gary hooked up and we did the dip-dance as our fish criss-crossed lines. My fish scorched eastward while the currents, winds, and tides coaxed the boat west.

Then it happened. My line went dead after 20 minutes of hard fight .

"Still got him don't you, David?" Sarah mouthed over the wind. I reeled fast, hoping the fish had turned and was now coming straight toward me. Then I knew it was gone.

"Got cut off," I shouted above the wind. Surely the shrimp boat had cut my line.

Reeling 200 yards of backing back onto a spool is no fun, it's less so when the memory is fresh of a fine fish.

A simple curlicue showed itself as my backing came out of the water. The curling line told me everything I needed to know about the tug-of-war that day in Bogue Sound.

My backing knot had slipped. I'd re-tied it the night before after dinner and drinks. My fault; my loss.

I held it up to Gary and Sarah; they both made sour lemon faces and shook their heads. Then Gary was back into his fish.

That's what I remembered two weeks ago in Pensacola as I saw my backing knot exposed for the third time. I'd never meant to fish with this particular line and spool; yet, here I was solidly tied into a nice false albacore, wondering if my backing knot was going to hold.

"Always tie your knots like you're going after tarpon; then you'll never have to worry," I tell students in my fly fishing classes.

My knots held and I caught some fine false albies that morning two weeks ago in Pensacola. This time I got lucky. . . Or maybe I started taking my own advice.

# Lesson Learned

## What can fly fishers learn from professional baseball? A lot it turns out.

*by Mike Adamson*

- “I just cost that kid a perfect game”. (Jim Joyce, MLB umpire)
- “Nobody’s perfect”. (Armando Gallaraga, pitcher Detroit Tigers)

Last month I learned a lesson from a kid half my age from one of the most intriguing baseball stories of the year. You probably saw it too. A chance for a perfect game. Two outs in the bottom of the ninth. A ground ball to the first baseman with the pitcher covering the bag. Clearly the final out, but the ump calls him safe. It may go down as the worst call in the history of baseball.

I felt bad for the pitcher and the injustice of the situation. It’s almost impossible to be perfect, but he was. And yet the chance to make history was stolen from him by someone else’s imperfection. But I felt almost as bad for the ump who made the call. By the time he knew he was wrong he couldn’t make it right. Both men probably had a sleepless night.

What I remember most this morning is not the game. What I remember is the study in integrity that followed as both pitcher and ump commented on the game. First the ump acknowledged his imperfection and owned up to it. Without trying to whitewash or make excuses he showed genuine remorse for something he couldn’t change. There wasn’t an ounce of “yes--but” in his answers. He just “manned up” and I was impressed. His response will define him as much as the bad call.

The kid’s response was even more impressive. While bearing the brunt of a decision that had to hurt deeply he offered a gracious, forgiving answer. “We’re all human”. “He feels worse than I do”. “Nobody’s perfect”. “We all make mistakes”. In the midst of what had to be deep disappointment at a wrong done to him by another person, he offered a chance to save face. Without overlooking the mistake he set the tone for the rest of the nation to respond with grace, understanding and forgiveness. That’s a kid with a great head on his shoulders.



That's a man who has the capacity to take the long view. He may be 25 years younger than me but he sure set an example for me last night.

So what does all this have to do with fly fishing. Our whole sport is a combination of the quest for perfection AND the reality of experiencing imperfection more often than not. Lots of things draw me to my flyrod and one of them is the difficulty in making the "perfect" cast. Yet, more times than I'd like to admit I've pushed the final forecast too hard in the heat of the moment or the last backcast slips through my fingers and the fly lands 180 degrees from where I intended. On one hand we keep honing the mechanics and shooting for the sky. On the other we learn to live, and to forgive, in the midst of lots of things going wrong.

The combination of pursuing perfection and being comfortable with and forgiving imperfection is flyfishing in a nutshell. And at least for me it's a great metaphor for life. Shoot for the sky. Own the mistakes. Go easy on yourself and on others. Make adjustments and keep shooting for the sky. Move on to the next fish, the next cast, and the next scenario.

So as I head out tomorrow morning with fly rod in hand I'll practice what was modeled for

me last night in a baseball game. Pursue perfection unabashedly. And when my mistakes or more importantly, when someone else's mistakes cost me the opportunity for perfection...let reality and grace coexist.

*(Mike Adamson is president of the Backcountry Fly Fishing Association - Orlando)*



photo by Rick Palazzini



aquater







# A Mess of Bream

“The copperheads are still feeding this morning. Left my dock about 0930, came in at noon, caught about 30 - all within 400 yards of my dock. I know this won't last long, but it's good rat now.

Caught about 4 to 1 on the dropper about 18 inches behind the popper (rubber John Adams cricket). Dropper was a #12 hook 1/2 inch of root beer crystal flash off the back, black chenille around the shank, rubber legs, no weight. On most hookups, you'd barely see the popper go under, and you had him.”

- Mike McQuiston, early July, 2010



# Trout Temptations

“Fished Southwest Montana (Missoula area) for the first time, June 23rd to July 1st. First real trout fishing experience. Had a great time. The spring runoff had settled out a week or two before, but they had four days of heavy rain just before we arrived. Rivers were swollen and cloudy but got better everyday. The Missouri was actually running double it's normal flow. Three (non-guided) drift boats had capsized the day before we fished it. We fished the Big Hole, Missouri, Blackfoot and Beaverhead rivers. Beautiful scenery.

Had a chance to experience dry flies, nymphs, and streamers. Successful with all. What seems like “dainty” fishing before the hook up, i.e. mending, watching indicators, etc, changes completely when one of these lunkers snaps up that #18 bug, there's nothing dainty about it. Some real fighters! I'll be doing it again.”

- Jim Fallon, July 2010



**July Meeting:** Monday, July 12. **Speaker:** John Bottko of the Salty Feather. **Topic:** Fishing North Florida's ocean beaches with a Fly. **Southpoint Marriott, 7 p.m.** Guide raffle for 1/2 Day trip with John Bottko. \$25 per ticket. **Outing:** July 18, Sunday, at Little Talbot Island. Meet at North Parking Lot at 8 a.m. to walk or bike to the north tip of the island.

**July 2010 Bar Pilot Dock, St. Johns River, Florida, 30.3967° N, 81.4300° W**

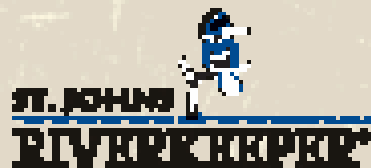
Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Phase	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Thu 01	12:15 AM 4.44 ft	06:20 AM 0.30 ft	12:42 PM 4.07 ft	06:21 PM 0.69 ft			06:27 AM	08:31 PM	11:41 PM	11:03 AM
Fri 02	12:51 AM 4.32 ft	06:57 AM 0.42 ft	01:22 PM 4.15 ft	07:10 PM 0.89 ft			06:27 AM	08:31 PM		11:56 AM
Sat 03	01:30 AM 4.20 ft	07:36 AM 0.49 ft	02:05 PM 4.24 ft	08:04 PM 1.01 ft			06:28 AM	08:31 PM	12:09 AM	12:48 PM
Sun 04	02:12 AM 4.06 ft	08:17 AM 0.50 ft	02:52 PM 4.33 ft	08:59 PM 1.04 ft		Last Quarter	06:28 AM	08:31 PM	12:38 AM	01:43 PM
Mon 05	02:59 AM 3.94 ft	09:02 AM 0.45 ft	03:44 PM 4.43 ft	09:55 PM 0.99 ft			06:28 AM	08:31 PM	01:09 AM	02:39 PM
Tue 06	03:54 AM 3.84 ft	09:50 AM 0.35 ft	04:40 PM 4.55 ft	10:50 PM 0.84 ft			06:29 AM	08:31 PM	01:43 AM	03:38 PM
Wed 07	04:53 AM 3.79 ft	10:42 AM 0.18 ft	05:38 PM 4.70 ft	11:46 PM 0.62 ft			06:29 AM	08:31 PM	02:22 AM	04:39 PM
Thu 08	05:54 AM 3.81 ft	11:37 AM -0.04 ft	06:34 PM 4.89 ft				06:30 AM	08:31 PM	03:08 AM	05:42 PM
Fri 09		12:41 AM 0.32 ft	06:52 AM 3.90 ft	12:33 PM -0.31 ft	07:29 PM 5.08 ft		06:30 AM	08:30 PM	04:02 AM	06:43 PM
Sat 10		01:34 AM -0.01 ft	07:48 AM 4.04 ft	01:28 PM -0.58 ft	08:22 PM 5.25 ft		06:31 AM	08:30 PM	05:04 AM	07:40 PM
Sun 11		02:24 AM -0.33 ft	08:44 AM 4.21 ft	02:21 PM -0.79 ft	09:14 PM 5.37 ft	New Moon	06:31 AM	08:30 PM	06:12 AM	08:32 PM
Mon 12		03:12 AM -0.59 ft	09:38 AM 4.40 ft	03:15 PM -0.90 ft	10:06 PM 5.43 ft		06:32 AM	08:30 PM	07:22 AM	09:18 PM
Tue 13		04:00 AM -0.76 ft	10:33 AM 4.59 ft	04:08 PM -0.87 ft	10:57 PM 5.40 ft		06:32 AM	08:29 PM	08:33 AM	09:59 PM
Wed 14		04:49 AM -0.83 ft	11:27 AM 4.76 ft	05:04 PM -0.69 ft	11:47 PM 5.28 ft		06:33 AM	08:29 PM	09:42 AM	10:36 PM
Thu 15		05:40 AM -0.79 ft	12:22 PM 4.89 ft	06:04 PM -0.43 ft			06:33 AM	08:29 PM	10:50 AM	11:12 PM
Fri 16	12:39 AM 5.08 ft	06:34 AM -0.68 ft	01:18 PM 4.97 ft	07:08 PM -0.16 ft			06:34 AM	08:28 PM	11:56 AM	11:47 PM
Sat 17	01:32 AM 4.83 ft	07:30 AM -0.53 ft	02:16 PM 5.00 ft	08:15 PM 0.07 ft			06:35 AM	08:28 PM	01:00 PM	
Sun 18	02:28 AM 4.56 ft	08:28 AM -0.36 ft	03:17 PM 5.00 ft	09:19 PM 0.22 ft		First Quarter	06:35 AM	08:27 PM	02:04 PM	12:23 AM
Mon 19	03:28 AM 4.32 ft	09:25 AM -0.22 ft	04:20 PM 4.99 ft	10:20 PM 0.31 ft			06:36 AM	08:27 PM	03:08 PM	01:02 AM
Tue 20	04:31 AM 4.14 ft	10:21 AM -0.10 ft	05:23 PM 4.99 ft	11:19 PM 0.33 ft			06:36 AM	08:27 PM	04:10 PM	01:45 AM
Wed 21	05:33 AM 4.05 ft	11:17 AM -0.02 ft	06:20 PM 4.99 ft				06:37 AM	08:26 PM	05:08 PM	02:32 AM
Thu 22		12:16 AM 0.30 ft	06:31 AM 4.02 ft	12:11 PM 0.01 ft	07:13 PM 4.99 ft		06:37 AM	08:26 PM	06:02 PM	03:23 AM
Fri 23		01:08 AM 0.23 ft	07:23 AM 4.03 ft	01:03 PM -0.01 ft	08:00 PM 4.97 ft		06:38 AM	08:25 PM	06:51 PM	04:18 AM
Sat 24		01:57 AM 0.13 ft	08:11 AM 4.05 ft	01:51 PM -0.04 ft	08:43 PM 4.93 ft		06:39 AM	08:24 PM	07:33 PM	05:15 AM
Sun 25		02:40 AM 0.05 ft	08:55 AM 4.08 ft	02:35 PM -0.04 ft	09:23 PM 4.87 ft	Full Moon	06:39 AM	08:24 PM	08:11 PM	06:12 AM
Mon 26		03:20 AM 0.01 ft	09:36 AM 4.12 ft	03:15 PM 0.00 ft	09:59 PM 4.80 ft		06:40 AM	08:23 PM	08:45 PM	07:08 AM
Tue 27		03:57 AM 0.03 ft	10:15 AM 4.17 ft	03:53 PM 0.12 ft	10:34 PM 4.71 ft		06:40 AM	08:23 PM	09:15 PM	08:03 AM
Wed 28		04:30 AM 0.10 ft	10:53 AM 4.23 ft	04:29 PM 0.29 ft	11:07 PM 4.62 ft		06:41 AM	08:22 PM	09:44 PM	08:56 AM
Thu 29		05:02 AM 0.21 ft	11:30 AM 4.30 ft	05:06 PM 0.51 ft	11:41 PM 4.51 ft		06:42 AM	08:21 PM	10:12 PM	09:49 AM
Fri 30		05:32 AM 0.34 ft	12:06 PM 4.38 ft	05:44 PM 0.73 ft			06:42 AM	08:21 PM	10:40 PM	10:42 AM
Sat 31	12:16 AM 4.41 ft	06:04 AM 0.45 ft	12:44 PM 4.46 ft	06:27 PM 0.93 ft			06:43 AM	08:20 PM	11:09 PM	11:35 AM

# St. Johns River Guidebook Now Available!

GET YOUR FEET WET – A guide to the St. Johns River  
Begin your journey exploring your St. Johns River!

Use your guidebook to:

- Explore parks and places along the river.
- Identify plants and animals that you encounter.
- Engage in fun outdoor games and activities.
- Learn about the ecology and history of the St. Johns.



[stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org)



# GET YOUR COPY TODAY

Order Online Today: [stjohnsriverkeeper.org/guidebook](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org/guidebook)

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