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FCFF Annual Banquet This Saturday

\$5000+ IN RAFFLES AND AUCTIONS

Free Fly tying Clinic for All Members Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

If you haven't registered for this year's exciting FCFF Banquet, well it may be too late. As of press day, Tuesday, Feb. 23, we have 79 members and guests committed for this great fun get-together, according to banquet chair Jason Sheasley.

The banquet and fly tying clinic will be held in our usual meeting room in the Southpoint Marriott. Banquet begins at 6 p.m.; fly tying runs 1-3 p.m. Bring your tools tying tools to learn from Oscar Feliu, one of the world's great fly tyers. (Also, you'll need to contact Jason Sheasley to say you're coming to the tying so we have enough materials.)

This year, one of our grand prizes is a Native Watercraft Manta Ray Kayak, generously donated by our good friends at ***Black Creek Outfitters***. All other items came from ***Black Fly Outfitters***, ***Salty Feather***, and ***Once Upon a Book Seller*** (in St. Mary's, GA). Please support our friends at each of these businesses.

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Plus, Great Fly Fishing and Paddle Trips From Capts. Larry Miniard • David Borries • John Bottko • James Dumas • John Adams • David Lambert

American Shad

20 FCFFers Trekked South To Participate in What Has Become An Annual Fishing Treat -- Fishing The Shad Run Near Mims, FL

by Rob Benardo

If you were not there you really missed it. This Saturdays shad outing started on a cool morning with a river full of boats. The winds were light, the river was up but not as high as we had been told and the sky was clear blue. Everyone had hopes of catching boat loads of fish.

After paddling to my first fishing spot, then my second and on to my third without a hit I started to worry. I kept tell my self that there were fish in the river but no one was catching any. Lunch time approached and I made my way up river to the bank we had set up to barbecue. The group gathered for some lunch, hamburgers & hotdogs, and we soaked up the sunshine on the first warm day of the season. We watched other people fishing and filled our bellies, then someone caught a fish! The water temps were coming up, it was only a matter of time know.

After lunch we all hit the river again and I was glad to see everyone back at it even though they had spent the first 3 hours of fishing without a bite. Little did I know that the second half of the day would turn out to be as good a day as I have ever had shad fishing. Everyone started catching fish all within eye shot of one another. You could hear the hoops and hollers echoing off the glassy river. I couldn't help but feel proud of the group for not giving up and happy that the fishing had turned on. This outing was unfolding in perfect form.

We all caught fish, some more than others, Mike (Head) caught the most. As I said in the beginning, if you weren't there you really missed it.

by Don Edlin

Outstanding outing thanks to Mike and Rob for putting it together, arranging for some good weather, getting the Shad to start their run for us and for making a great lunch. I was trying a new camera and my pictures didn't come out too good so no pictures but good memories.

Apologies to Bart (Isaac) for the way that guy aggressively pushed him off of his spot when Bart was the only one consistently catching fish and the rest of us could do nothing but watch. As Bart caught his umpteenth fish, the poor guy who had been casting all day with no results just snapped and muttered something like he couldn't stand it anymore and it had been so long since he had felt the tug of a fish on the end of the line and it just wasn't fair and what sinful act of indiscretion could he have possible committed to be punished and go the whole day and not catch a fish?? Bart wisely moved over several feet and let the poor muttering soul into his spot. The guy was delirious with happiness when he finally caught a nice Shad and all was right with the world, well almost all as there are several places that still need lots of help.

Thanks again for a great day and let the record show I finally caught a fish--Thanks to Bart.

Photos: Top Left and Right: Jason Sheasley. Bottom left and right: Bart Isaac




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PHOTO BY DAVE TEEPER, WORLD ANGLING



CHUBBY WINTER REDFISH

This swell fish came to the photographer's fly a couple of weeks ago. Says Woody: I took him on my 5 weight. When the waater's really cold the fish get lethargic. This one just came right in. Still, ice fight on a small trout rod.

by Woody Huband

Safe to Eat Lake Fish?

Not From 43% of America's Lakes



by Jason Sheasley

Are freshwater fish safe to eat?

Not from 43 percent of the lakes in the United States. That's the finding from a recent study of lakes by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Five-hundred lakes were selected randomly for this study; 16 of the sample lakes are in Florida.

According to the EPA's 2008 *Biennial National Listing of Fish Advisories*, 43 percent of the nation's lakes are under fish consumption advisories. Mercury, polycyclic biphenyl (PCBs), dioxins and furans, DDT and chlordane account for 97% of the contamination.

In September 2009, the EPA published the findings of the *National Lake Fish Tissue Study*, the first statistically-based nationwide study of freshwater fish contamination in the U.S. The five-year assessment includes the largest set of chemicals studied in fish by the EPA.

The study is the result of a cooperative effort that included 50-plus state, tribal and federal

agencies. The study looked for concentrations of chemicals in lake fish that would be detrimental to humans. It also developed a much needed baseline for tracking contaminant concentrations in freshwater fish.

Study results show that mercury, PCBs, dioxins and furans, DDT and chlordane are the most commonly detected analytes found in the freshwater fish tissue samples. However, 43 of the 268 target analytes were not detected any of the fish tissue samples collected during the study. An additional 34 chemicals were infrequently detected in the fish tissue samples. Thirty-three of these rarely detected chemicals occurred in the bottom-dweller samples.

The results are presented on a nationwide average. As such, the results are not broken down on a lake-by-lake or state-by-state basis in the report. While the report does not include the raw data, it is available upon request from the EPA.

Links and Resources:

EPA website for National Fish Tissue Study <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/study/tissue.htm>

EPA's website for Fish Advisories and Fish Consumption Limits: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/>

Florida's Latest 2009 Fish Consumption PDF: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/floridafishadvice/Final%202009%20Fish%20Brochure.pdf>

What is a Part Per Million?

The concentration of a chemical in a given substance (such as chemicals in fish tissue) is measured in either parts per million (ppm), parts per billion (ppb) and parts per trillion (ppt). But what exactly is a part per million. Imagine a swimming pool filled with one million ping pong balls. Ten of those ping pong balls are red and the remainder are white. The red ping pong balls constitute ten ping pong balls in a million or ten parts per million.



SUNSET ON THE ST. JOHNS RIVER

Sometimes
it's necessary to stop and
look around.

Photo by Woody Huband



THE DECK STRETCH

by David Lambert

Most flylines need to be stretched. Instead of tying your line to a tree and pulling on it, try this simple method.

Line memory, it's a problem for every saltwater caster. Those nuisance coils that foul your line on the casting deck can seriously reduce your casting efficiency as they tumble through the guides of your fly rod. Excessive friction is the culprit. Worse still, once the coils leave your tiptop, they show vastly more 'face,' more profile, to the wind than stretched-line casts, which further reduces cast length and accuracy. Cold weather aggravates the problem, especially if you use a fly

line named for tropical fish -- tarpon, bonefish, et. al.

"All fly lines have some memory and will retain the shape of the fly reel when stripped from it," says veteran fly line designer and casting ace Bruce Richards of Scientific Anglers.

"Lines that are made hard and stiff for tropical heat need to be stretched before every use," Richards says. "Hot-weather lines will need a LOT of stretching."

Many saltwater lines have nylon at their core, either single strand, multifilament hollow, or braided mono. Braided mono often is the core of tropical lines. It is the stiffest core, which makes most resistant to heat sag. "When those cores are coated with a stiff PVC coating they become quite stiff and have considerable memory, especially if the air is cold," says Richards.

Removing that 'considerable memory' may take some doing. Line stretching methods populate the pages of fly fishing literature: "Tie 60 feet of line to a tree, then stretch," suggests one. Another recommends stretching line in your hands in 3- to 5-foot lengths. Still others advise trolling a weighted line behind a running boat.

Each of those stretching suggestions has its merits, but each also has its limitations. Here's a line-stretch technique that is fool-proof, water free, and needs nothing but you and the fly line. An added benefit: You can stretch 60, 75, even 100 feet of line and you can do it from your casting deck.

Here's how: Pull 60 feet of line from your reel; that's 10 or 11 full arm stretches for average-height casters. Keep the leader end in your right hand and double the line to make a 30-foot length of two lines. Double the 30-foot lengths to make a 4-leg length of 15 feet.

Still holding the 4-leg line in your right hand, grab the other ends with your left hand, then place your foot in the middle and lift both hands slowly. The lines will even-up in length. As you gain tension, gently stretch the evened 4 legs of lines between your foot and both hands for 20 or so seconds.

When you've got the lines stretched, slowly lower your arms; you don't want the lines 'snapping' back into their former curl. Lay the line on the deck in large loose loops, and loosely return it to the reel or make cast the line out to prepare for its delivery to a fish.

Simple, quick, efficient line stretching. Once you try this method, you may never stretch your lines any other way.

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