

First Coast Fly Fishers

MAY 2010



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Gary Borger Headlines June FFF SEC Show in Georgia Mountains

Take a break from June's swelter. Come to Unicoi State Park to the Federation of Fly Fishers Southeast Council's annual fly fishing show and conclave June 4-5 in Heen, GA,

The SEC Annual Fly Show is very strong on fly tying and fly casting.



This year's lead guest speaker, Gary Borger, truly is nation's finest fly angling educator. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is Professor Emeritus at

the University of Wisconsin Campus in Wausau. A



The View From Unicoi State park, North Georgia

free-lance writer and photographer and an active member of the Outdoor Writer's Association of America, Gary is also a Contributing Editor for Fly Fisherman Magazine, Editor at Large for the Virtual Fly Shop, and Fly Fishing Columnist for North American Fisherman. He has written five best-selling books on fly fishing: Nymphing, Naturals, The Borger Color System, Designing Trout Flies, and Presentation.

Additional guest presenters Jim Casada, Tom Travis, David Lambert, Rex Gudgell, Jimmy harris, Jimmy Jacobs, and Dusty Sprague, Kent Edmonds and many others. The Conclave hosts dozens of the world's best fly tiers and many of the regions's most highly regarded casting and fly fishing educators and guides will be there to teach and have fun.

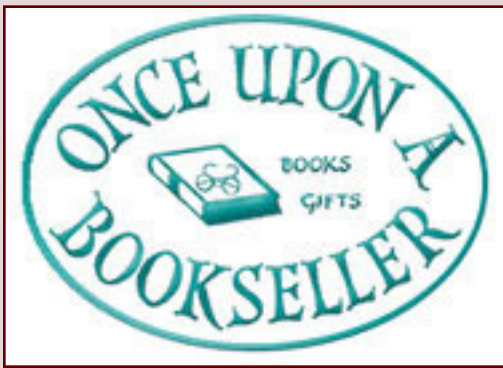
Unicoi Park is in north central Georgia at the bottom of the Appalachian mountain chain. It is mountainous country and an absolutely lovely place to spend a few days fishing and with friends. Some exceptional fly fishing is literally just minutes away -- the Chatahoochee River runs through Helen and Smith Creek borders the park.

For a room reservations, contact 1-800-573-9659 and mention you are attending the conclave on June 4 & 5 , 2010 to get the pre-event special room rate.

Banquet No

By Jason Sheasley

By all accounts, this year's First Coast Fly Fishers Annual banquet was a qualified success. Over 80 members attended the banquet, which was held on the last Saturday in February at the South Point Marriott in Jacksonville. The proceeds from the banquet will be used to support the Club and make unique programs and outings available to its members throughout 2010.



otes of Thanks

The guest speaker for this year's banquet was world renowned fly tyer, tenor and classical guitarist Oscar Felio. In a class on Saturday afternoon, Oscar taught several members how to tie three of his proven saltwater patterns. Saturday evening Oscar gave a talk on the importance of protecting and preserving the heritage of our outdoor sports. Oscar concluded his presentation by playing and singing a selection of operatic arias and pop standards that demonstrated his range of musical talents.

This year's banquet had a fantastic selection of silent auction and raffle items provided in part by local following shops and guides. The winner of this year's Membership Raffle was Willie Mizell. He won a Tibor Back County CL Wide fly fishing reel, provided by Tibor Reels. Don McKinnon was the winner of this year's Grand Prize Raffle. Don took home a new 2010 Native Watercraft Manta Ray kayak donated by Black Creek Outfitters.

This year's banquet wouldn't have been a success without the generosity of the shops and guides who donated merchandise and trips to the banquet. Please show your appreciation for their continued support of Club by patronizing the following businesses and guides:

The Salty Feather - www.saltyfeather.com

Black Fly Outfitters - www.blackflyoutfitter.com

Black Creek Outfitters - www.blackcreekoutfitters.com

Once Upon a Bookseller - www.onceuponabookseller.com

Tibor Reels - www.tiborreels.com

Sage - www.sageflyfish.com

Capt John Bottko - www.saltyfeather.com

Capt David Borries - www.backwaterfishingadventures.com

Capt James Dummas - www.drumancharters.com

David Lambert, MCI - www.onwaterjournal.com

Capt Larry Miniard - www.larryminiard.com

Capt Rich Santos - www.flyfishjax.com

Several members deserve thanks and recognition for their hard work in bringing this year's banquet together. Banquet Chairman Jason Sheasley as well as John Adams, Rob Benardo Don Edlin, Jim Fallon, Larry Holder, Dennis Holt, and Ken Nimmich are to commended for their work on making this year's annual banquet such a success.

Black Creek Outfitters Discount for All FCFF Members

At the conclusion of this year's annual banquet, Joe Butler and Black Creek Outfitters announced the conception of a special program established for the Club. Members of the First Coast Fly Fishers will receive a 5 percent discount on all non-sale items purchased at Black Creek Outfitters. At the end of the year, Black Creek Outfitters will tally the total sales made by Club members and donate 5 percent of the total back to the Club in the way of merchandise for the banquet.

This program is in effect now and will run through the end of the year. To qualify for the discount, all you have to do is show your First Coast Fly Fishers membership card to the cashier at the time you check out.

Contact Seth Nerke (AC_Nehrke@hotmail.com) if you are a member and have not received a membership card.



**ANNUAL
LOTT FISH
FRY AND
FRIENDLY
BASS/BREAM
TOURNEY
MAY 15**

First Coast Fly Fishers wait all year for this great outing, the remarkable fish fry lunch and great fishing on the St. Johns, all put on our great friends and long-time FCFFers Bill and Ann Lott. It's a great day of great camaraderie, top-shelf cuisine, and lots of fishing and friends.

In previous years, members have fished the mornings, lunched long and hard, then fished afternoons before returning to the boat ramps to load up for the ride home. This year we've done something different: We're adding a friendly bass and bream tourney, with prizes for biggest bass, biggest bream, and biggest combined total length.

Capt. John Bottko and the Salty Feather donated the prizes. It is a fly only, total-length-of-fish tournament. To have a fish scored, the fish has to be photographed on a measuring device or (preferably) brought to the dock for measurement. Tournament starts at 7 a.m. and fish have to be recorded by 12-noon. Then we eat. If you use a fish for the combined bass & bream prize that fish is not eligible for individual bass or bream prizes

Prizes

- Fly box for biggest bass & bream combined length.
- Cooler for biggest bass.
- Shirt & hat for biggest bream.

This is a truly special event. Please let Bill or Ann Lott know that you plan to attend so they can get a head count for food.



Woody Huband, Rob Benardo and John Adams With A Day's Catch for Last Year's Fish Fry



Article and Photos by Bart Isaac

CHICO'S RIVER SHRIMP

At a recent club meeting, one of our members donated a 2-inch thick folder of magazine clippings related to fly tying. The folder made its way into my hands and I wasted no time in thumbing through the treasure of potential “new to me” flies to tie. I happened upon a recipe for Chico’s River Shrimp, a Chico Fernandez design.

Materials.

*Hook: Mustad 34007
#2*

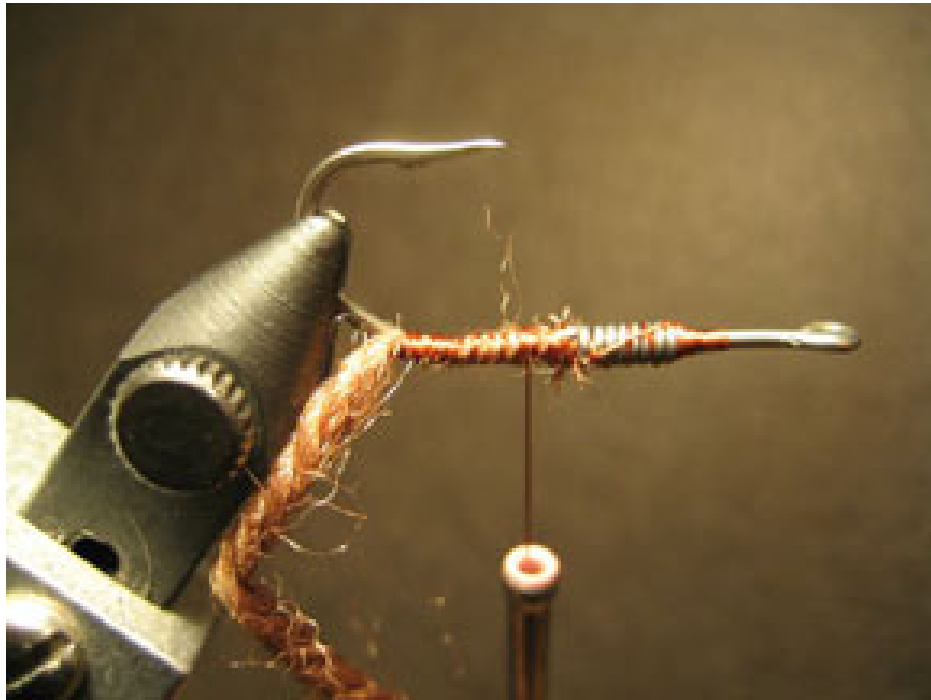
*Thread: Brown flat wax
nylon, Denier 210*

*Body: 0.25 Lead wire,
wrapped with brown
yarn*

*Wing: Root Beer Craft
Fur, copper Krystal
Flash*

*Head: Rusty Brown
Deer Body Hair*

TYING THE R



The muddler style fly was described by John Royall, an Indian River guide, in a 2001 issue of Florida Sportsman.

What really drew my attention to this pattern was the simplicity of the design. We all like to modify flies, right? Well this one can be tied in a variety of sizes (4 to 2/0), colors and materials. The fly has a deer hair head; trust me, it does not float. The deer hair face allows it to push water and remain hook point up. It has all the characteristics of a great shallow water pattern.



Step 1:

Sharpen the hook and crush the barb. Then, wind about 7 to 9 turns of the lead wire onto the center of the hook shank. Start the thread onto the hook just in front of the lead. When starting the thread, make sure that the hook shank is bare for about a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch just below the eye—this is important for spinning the deer hair head. Wind the thread over the lead towards the bend of the hook as shown in the photo. Complete coverage of the lead is not necessary with the thread. The lead will be covered by the yarn. Tie the yarn in at the bend then work the thread back toward the location where the thread was initially started, again ensuring that the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch below the hook eye is bare.

Step 2:

Wrap the yarn forward to where the thread was started. Tie off the yarn and clip the excess. Again, ensure that the shank is bare $\frac{1}{4}$ inch

RIVER SHRIMP

below the hook as in the photo.

Step 3:

Next is the wing. Take a tuft of Craft Fur that is about twice the length of the hook shank. Tie it in right on top of the spot where the yarn is tie off. Take three strands of Copper Krystal flash, double around the thread and tie in right on top of the Craft Fur. Again, ensure that the hook shank is bare $\frac{1}{4}$ inch below the hook eye.

Step 4:

The next step is the spun deer hair head. Clip about a pencil width of deer hair from the hide, removing the underfur. Leave the tips on the hair as this will help with the appearance of the fly. Place the tuft of deer hair on the shank, give it two loose wraps. Flare and spin the hair. There might be enough space for a second amount. Pack the first amount and spin a second clump of deer hair—you can cut the tips off this hair before spinning. In this photo, I've spun two clumps of hair to form the head. Whip finish.

Step 5:

Trim the head of the fly. I like to use a double edge razor to trim the deer hair. Scissors will work but might produce a more bulky, shallow running fly. Note how I have left the deer hair toward the hook point to blend in with the wing, help it ride hook point up and perhaps even aid in being weedless.



photos by Bart Isaac





All Photos by George Lyncker



Pleasures of the Panasofkee

Article and Photos by Ernie Mancill

Having had a customer visit canceled at the last minute, I had an unexpected hole placed in my work calendar, which I promptly filled by taking two days of vacation. In spite of the last several freshwater trips being less than successful, I decided to take another freshwater road trip. As an added attraction, Rob was able to clear his busy schedule and he joined me for the trip. I was able to snag us a hotel in Ocala, which was pretty centrally located to the action.

We left early Thursday morning and for Lake Panasofkee and stopped at Idlewild fish camp, to give Rob a chance to check out the facilities.

We decided instead to fish the outlet river which runs from Lake Panasofkee into the (south) Withlacoochee River. Immediately we started catching fish, mainly bream of different sizes, most medium sized, but some respectable sized fish mixed in. We also caught a

bunch of bass, up to about 3 lbs, who were feeding on minnows, which were hanging about in the creek/river, and there were millions of them, getting pounded by the bass.

After a quick break for lunch, we headed up the creek, and fished the mouth of the creek into the lake. I managed to catch a nice bass, which was about 4lbs and hopefully Rob has a picture



that he's going to post. I lost track of how many fish we caught, but it was a very respectable number.

So, all in all it was a good trip, reaffirming Panasofkee as a solid panfish/bass destination, but some of the other spots, while holding promise, failed to deliver.

And I had a great time spending the trip with Rob, trying my best to keep the conversation steered away from politics or religion, which don't mix with fishing...in my mind. Now I'm starting to plan my trip to the Everglades for next month...more to come. Here are a few shots for your review.

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