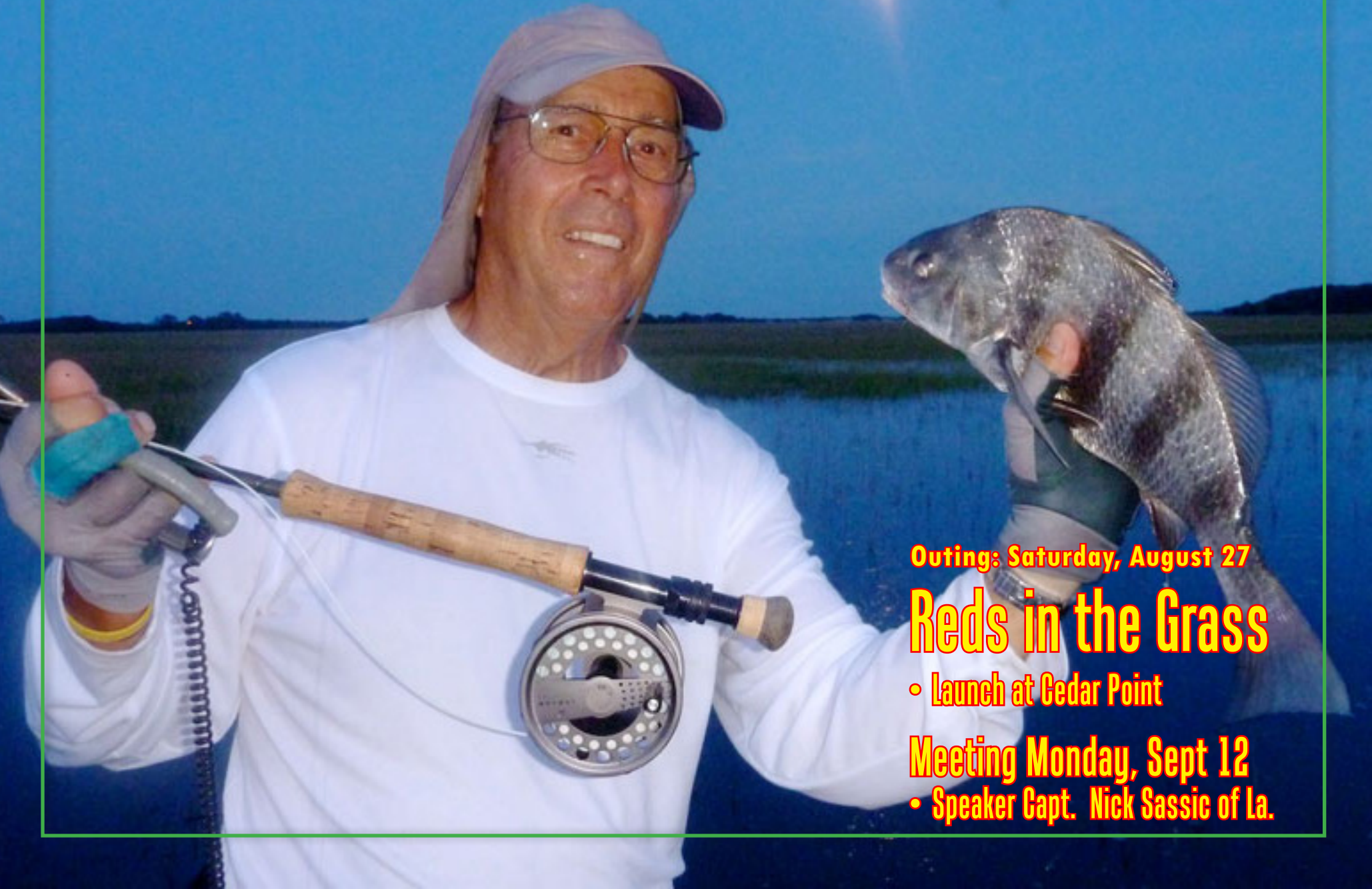


First Coast Fly Fishers

August 2011



Outing: Saturday, August 27

Reds in the Grass

- **Launch at Cedar Point**

Meeting Monday, Sept 12

- **Speaker Capt. Nick Sassic of La.**

**First Coast Fly Fishers
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Newsletter

**David Lambert
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Cover photo:

**Don Edlin with Sheepshead
Photo: Woody Huband**





Photo by Bart Isaac

Fly Fishing Expo 2011 October 21-22 in Orlando

Come join the state's best, most active, most interesting fly fishers in Orlando for the third annual Florida Fly Fishing Expo, sponsored by the Federation of Fly Fishers, Florida..

This year's Expo brings fly fishing greats and notables like Jon Cave, Flip Pallot, Ed Maurer of Florida Fly Fishing Magazine, Norm Zeigler, Mark Sedotti, Jim Penrod, Chico Fernandez, Paul Cave, Casting Master Eric Cook, Stackpole Books Editor Jay Nichols, and many, many more.

We'll have the best and most prominent fly tiers in the region tying all day both days, and the area's most proficient casting instructors will present clinics and throughout the weekend.

This year the Expo is held at Worldgate Resort in Kissimmee, Fl. Special expo room rates of \$65 are available by calling the resort, 407-396-1400 .

Interested in teaching casting? We will have Continuing Education presentations for FFF certified casting Instructors on Thursday, Oct. 20, from 1 - 4 p.m. FFF certified instructors, both CIs and Masters participate in Continuing Education to renew, enhance, expand teaching and casting skills and knowledge.

See <http://fff-florida.org/expo.htm> for more info.

Seth's 30-inch big girl



Coming Events

- **Friday, Sept 2 - Pre outing at Black Fly Outfitters at 5 p.m.**
- **August Outing will be held Sat. Sept. 3. Meet at Cedar Point Ramp at 11 a.m. for barbecue lunch. High tide is 2:08 p.m** Contact Mike Harrington for more info - mharrigan2@yahoo.com
- **Monday, Sept. 12 - FCFF meeting, 7 p.m..** Southpoint Marriott. Casting at 6 p.m. with Michaelson and Lambert. Speaker: Capt. Nick Sassic of Louisiana talks about fabled Cajun red fishing.
- **Pre-Outing, Friday, Sept. 23 - The Salty Feather.** Come for burgers and sodas.
- **September Outing - Sun. Sept 25- Palm Valley Flood Tide Outing.** Meet at 6 a.m. at the Palm Valley Bridge, SR 210. Fish, then come back for barbecue lunch at the Bridge.
- **October 3 - FCFF Meeting.** Speaker: Capt Greg Bowdish: Kayak Fishing Matlacha



Photo by Woody Hubbard

NEXT FEW OUTINGS -- REDFISH ON THE FLOODED FLATS

Our next few outings will be flood-tide fishing for tailing reds, since we're in the heat and the heart of grass fishing season here in North Florida. We'll fish for tailers in two separate regions: in the north, around Cedar Point, Fort George, and Nassau Sound; and in the south, Palm Valley, Guana River and North St. Augustine areas -- maybe all the way down to the airport in St. A.

As usual, we'll meet up at the familiar launching points, then disperse to various flats to find the fish. And we'll gather for a grilling after the fishing, if time allows. Dogs, burgers, and drinks on the club.

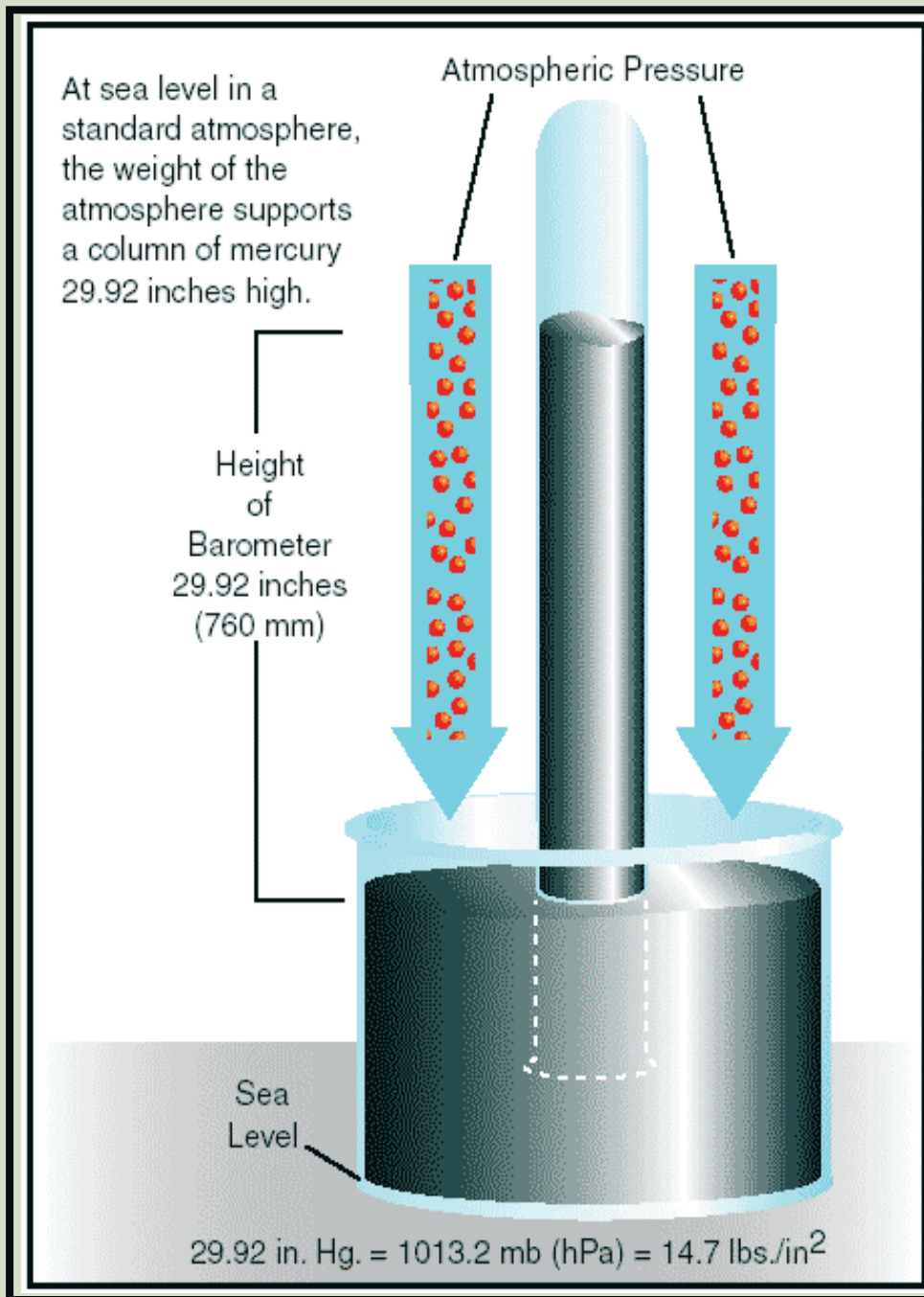
All smaller boat types are useful -- canoes, kayaks, jon, small skiffs, and such. If you need a ride, or have questions, contact Mike Harrigan, VP for Outings 2011. Mike's phone is 904-649-8967; email, mharrigan2@yahoo.com

Scheduled Dates:

- Saturday Sept. 3 - Cedar Point flooded grass
- Sunday Sept. 25 - Palm Valley flooded grass
- Saturday October? Fish another flood tide

How Air Pressure Affects Flooding Tides and Flats

(and why you should care during tailing-red season)



by Dick Michaelson and David Lambert

Lately we've wondered why predicted tides have flooded the marsh flats when, in recent memory, those same tides were not considered reliable flooding tides. Why is it, we wondered, that the old stand-by, the 5.4 tide as measured at the Bar Pilot's Dock tide station, seems to be not the golden number for flood tides this year. So we did some checking. What we discovered may affect how you view tidal predictions in the future.

Dick Michaelson researched the barometric pressures on those days where the flats flooded well on days where no flood tide was predicted. In all cases the barometric pressure was low—low enough to allow the tides to rise an additional few inches, enough to push the both water and fish up onto the flats.

He finds the cause for this from another First Coast Fly Fisher, Dr. Jim McCully. McCully is a man who asked why tides do what they

do, and why scientists and lay persons had no reliable tide sourcebook. So McCully wrote his own, which has turned out to be the definitive lay persons guide to the tides. It's title: *Beyond the Moon—A Conversational, Common Sense Guide to Understanding the Tides*.

On page 188 of his book, Dr. McCully writes this rule of thumb: "One inch of change in barometric pressure will cause about one foot of change in the sea level (actually 14 inches)."

Lower atmospheric pressure allows tides to rise higher (than the predicted norm), since the weight of the atmosphere is not pressing down on them. Conversely, higher pressures retard tide heights, or pushes down on the water, keeping it from rising as high.

Tides charts and predictions use the average atmospheric pressure rate of 29.92 inches of mercury as their measuring stick. If the air pressure is less than 29.92, then the tide will be higher.

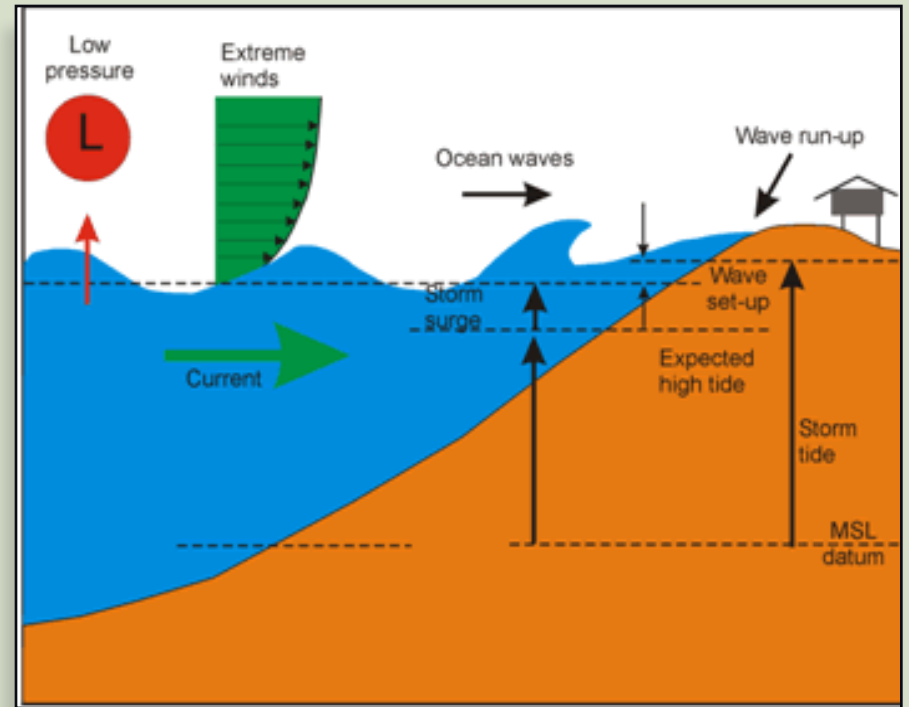
Here's an example. The conversion is not complicated, and it is only is a rule of thumb:

Average air pressure at sea level 29.92 inches of mercury
 Actual day's barometric pressure - 29.62
 Difference in barometric pressure = .30
 To convert that to inches multiply .30 x 14 = 4.2 inches.

So, if the daily high-tide prediction is for a 5.1 high based on the Mayport Bar Pilot's Dock, then the tide will actually be 5.1 + 4.2 inches, or a 5.5, which is generally enough to flood the area.

It's easy if you think of the difference as a percentage of 14 inches. In this case: .30 is 30 percent of 14 inches, or approximately 4 inches; another day, the difference might be .20, or 20 percent of 14 inches, which would be 2.8 inches difference in height.

(The Mayport Pilot's Dock, by the way, is the same tide measuring



LOW PRESSURE AND EASTERLY WINDS PUSH TIDES HIGHER UP ONTO LAND

point used by the Florida Sportsman Tide Calendars, by the Florida Times-Union newspaper, and other media. We have used this as a basis for comparison of tides through the area since before either computers, the Weather Channel, or electronic tide predictors.)

Note that two paragraphs above, note above where I said a 5.5-foot high tide at Mayport Pilot's Dock is generally enough to flood the area? Barring other atmospheric and meteoric anomalies, this should flood. A couple of days of moderate west winds will usually offset the barometric low pressure, and normally, west winds are associated with high pressures and blue skies.

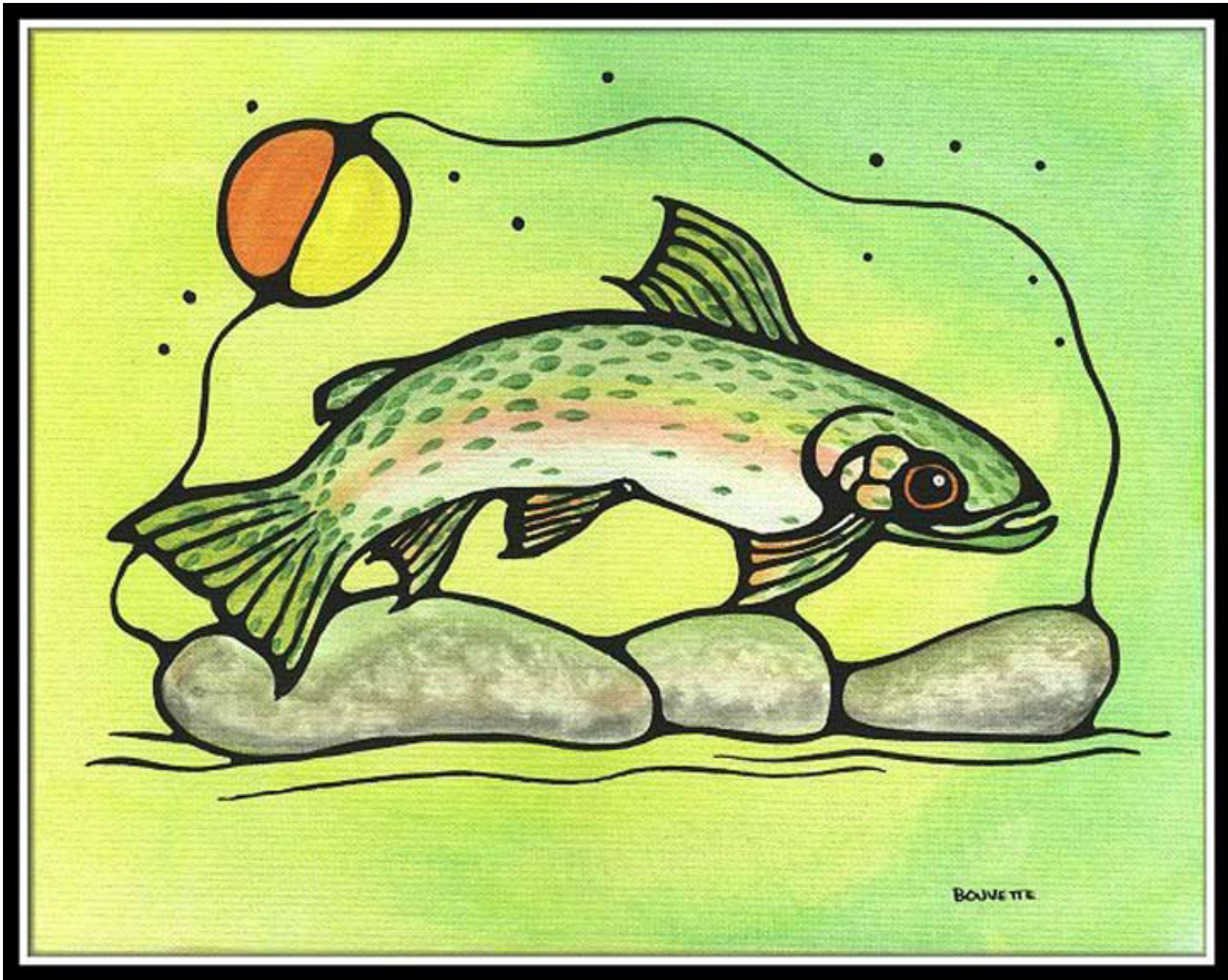
Next time you're expecting a flood tide, check the barometer, too. It may make the difference between catching fish and being skunked.

A Good Couple of Months for Catching





photos: left, Woody Huband; top center, Rob Benardo; bottom center, Eernie Mancil; Right, Woody huband



Metis Art Painting by Ayla Bouvette -- www.bouvette.com

One Good Fish

by Mike Adamson

I'm in Minneapolis this morning. It's 31 degrees with 26 mph winds that make it feel like 21 degrees. A trace of snow blowing under low gray clouds that look like they're on a forced march. It's just another glorious May Day in the state where I grew up. I love Minnesota.

This is the state that nurtured my love for water and everything that lives in it. Like all fishermen I still remember my first fish. The crappie in Orchard Lake from the dock of the Sea Girt Inn. My first "monster" pulled from the banks of the Minnesota River. It was a carp but it was still a monster. The highlight was always the annual and INCREDIBLE weeks in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area outside of Ely. There, we dodged child-sized mosquitoes while casting to walleye, smallmouth and northern pike at the base of beaver dams. I love Minnesota.

But I have to be honest that some of that romance for the land (and waters) of my boyhood may have grown fonder with absence. It ain't Florida. Case in point—this morning's sports page in the Star-Tribune highlights a spring-time quest for steelhead on the North Shore of Lake Superior. We're talking Duluth. I'm pretty sure that the town's name comes from a couple of root words that mean "absolutely gorgeous" and "colder than you could ever imagine." Get there between August and October and you'll never want to leave. Get there soon after Thanksgiving and you can't leave. At least until the snow melts.

This morning I'm reading the story of a father/son team fishing for steelhead at the mouth of swollen streams that flow into Lake Superior. In the land of 10,000 lakes, this lake will always be King. A higher grade of royalty than Minnetonka or Winnibigoshish. Even the holy waters of Mille Lacs pay obeisance to Superior which still holds the Edmund Fitzgerald in the silt of her floor. (Time to pull up Gordon Lightfoot on your iPods.)

So, as the father and son make their way to streams on the second and last day of their trip, it's through 6 inches of overnight April snow. It's 36 degrees when they arrive at 9 am. It warms to 38 degrees by the afternoon. It's 36 degrees again at 5 pm. The article is peppered with phrases like, "weather as foreboding as a funeral", and "the day would not warm a whit nor would it grow brighter" and "gales folded rollers into foam against the craggy shorelines." You get the picture. It was survival. And then it happened.

A slight tug that was likely just a snag. A "just-in-case" hookset. In an instant, a "steelhead gone wild" taking all the flyline out of the stripping basket and streaking upstream, both in and out of the water. Soon there was a beautiful 28-inch hen at hand, lit up like chrome and full of roe.

Here's how the story ends. Tell me if you've ever felt this... "Two days, one fish. But one good fish, and now the weather, still seasonably dank, never seemed so pleasant."

Isn't that classic? You know JUST how that feels, don't you. It's a brotherhood. And you know you belong when one good steelhead at the mouth of Superior or one good redfish after a day on the lagoon or one good tarpon after a week in the backcountry eats your fly and makes it worthwhile.

So this morning I'm grateful to be "home" in the state I've never left even though I haven't had an address since I went to college. I'm also gratefully heading back today from the waters of my youth to the waters of my grown family. Frankly I prefer the heat of Florida's summers to the cold of Minnesota's winters. But mostly I prefer to keep fishing whatever water happens to be near me. I'm glad that this month those waters hold redfish, snook and tarpon and that somewhere in the mix there will be one good fish.

Mike Adamson is a member of Backcountry Fly Fishing Association, Orlando. Culled from The FFF Clubwire



"...you're on a flooded flat where the sun throws an angled beam and the wind isn't a whisper. A baitfish swirls, a grasshopper jumps, the birds wheel quietly above. There...a movement...maybe a shadow, maybe a glint. Then you see it, a tiny triangle, a tail-tip in tilting silhouette. You clear your line to set up the cast. Your fly lands perfect, 3 up and 3 over. The fish fins over to inspect. It sees your fly. Now the fun begins..."



Photos by Woody Huband

Website Helps Floridians Understand Water as A Resource

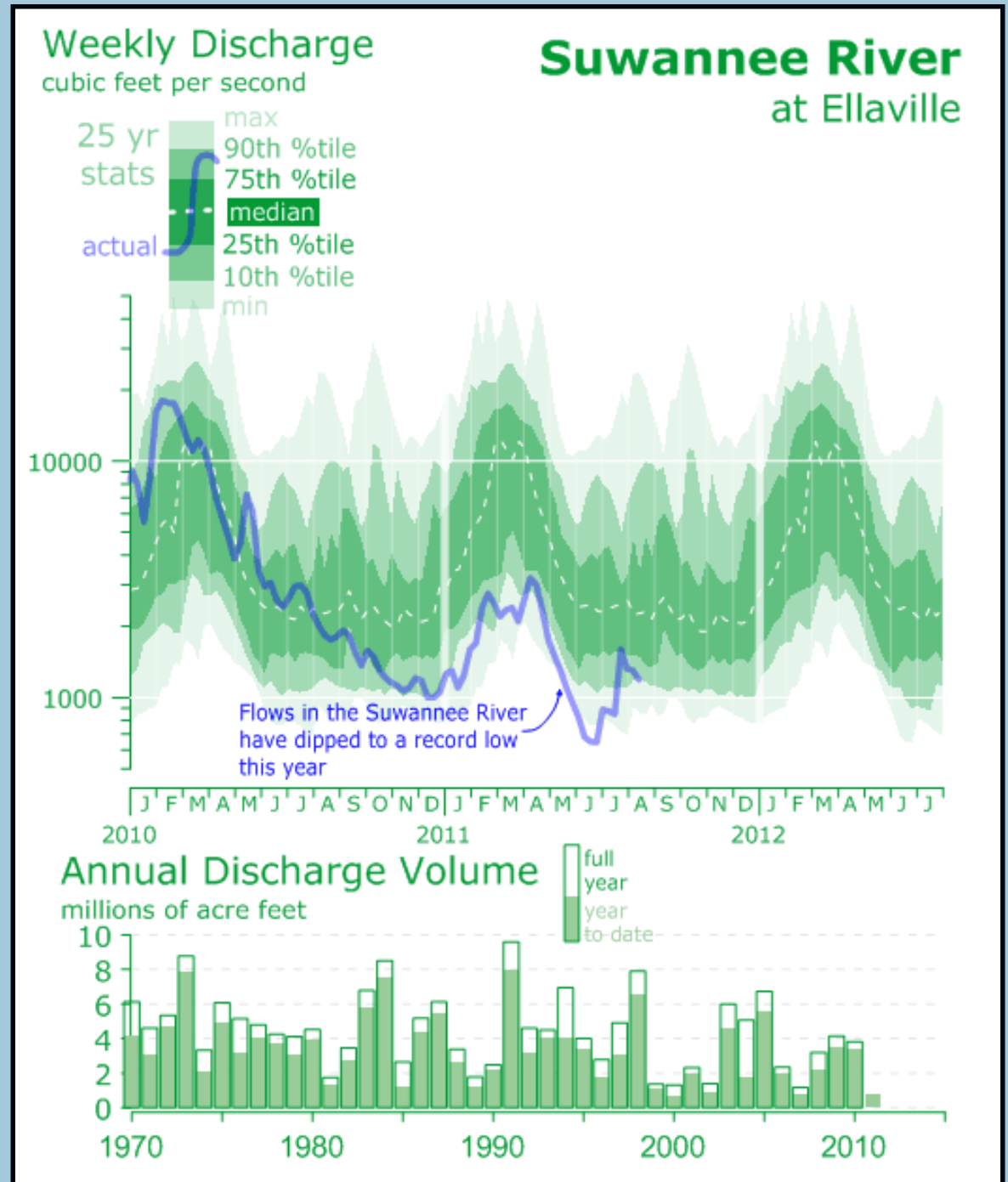
Go Hydrology! (www.gohydrology.org)

By Jason C. Sheasley

Scientists term the continuous movement of water on, above, and beneath the surface of the Earth as the water cycle. It is a complex amalgam of geology, hydrology, biology and meteorology that is fragile yet resilient. With all that science to understand it is little wonder that the average person takes for granted the water that comes out of the tap (or a bottle), without giving a second thought to how it got there or where it came from?

Although the most casual fly angler has a deeper appreciation of the water cycle than fellow human, to be better stewards of our environment, we need to better understand how it all works together. Enter Go Hydrology! (www.gohydrology.org), a daily blog on water in Florida.

Go Hydrology! is the brainchild of Robert Sobczak, a hydrologist with the US National Park Service at Big Cypress National Preserve. It is a daily blog that presents real-time data for Florida's Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades and Big Cypress watersheds in an easy to understand format sure to be of interest to the layman and scientist alike. While it is managed and



maintained by Sobczak, the blog is an example of the cooperation of numerous state and federal agencies including: the South Florida Water Management District, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US National Park Service, and Everglades National Park; who lend their support and data to educate and enlighten the users of our most precious natural resource.

With real-time links to weather charts, hydrographs and computer model results, Go Hydrology! clearly demonstrates the importance of water management. However, more importantly, the blog explains and illustrates the intricacies of the water cycle using a combination of graphs, cartoons, photographs and videos that the general public can easily understand. The journal is unique in that it allows the reader to witness real-time hydrologic data unfold in a manner that explains natural phenomena as well as demonstrates the effects of man on the environment.

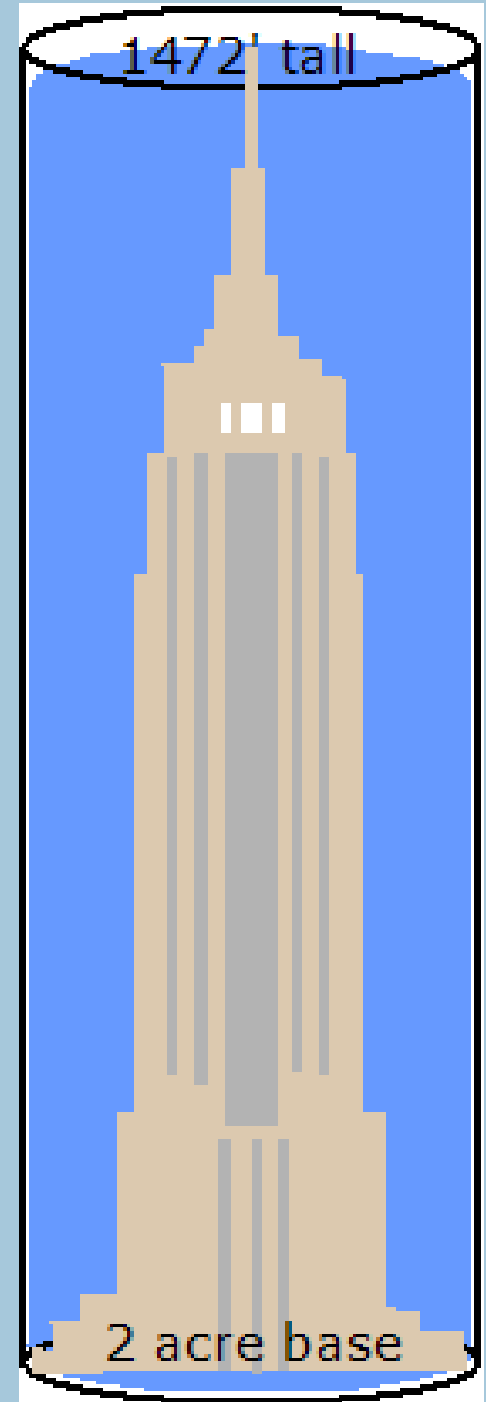


Week after week, the data reveals a grand picture of south Florida's hydrology with the effects of weather and man made clearly evident.

One shouldn't be deterred from reading this blog thinking that it is all numbers and hard to understand science. With a fine editorial flair Sobczak explains the mysteries of the water cycle using easy to picture analogies. For instance, do you know that in an average year 4.25 million acre feet of water flows from the famed Suwannee River into the Gulf of Mexico? That is enough water to fill up a bowl 30 miles in diameter and 15 feet deep (roughly the size of Lake Okeechobee).

Granted, the majority of Go Hydrology's focus is on south Florida and the Everglades. However, the concepts are universal. Besides, south Florida and the Everglades are the incubators for the game fish we all pursue. So it is in our best interest to understand how the water is being managed downstream. Furthermore, the information Sobczak provides in his blog provides us with a deeper understanding of where our water comes from and what we can do to protect and preserve this precious resource.

Interested in Go Hydrology? Or hydrologist Robert Sobczak's rationale behind the daily blog? Watch his presentation at the 2008 Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXADYDkGVH0>)

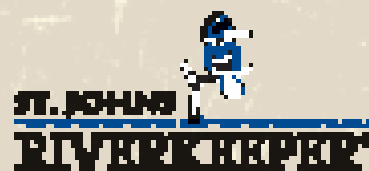


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