

FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

June 2012



FCFF Newsletter Photo Contest

Back at the beginning of April we announced the first ever FCFF Newsletter Photo Contest. The contest challenged members to show off their photography skills by submitting some of their best photographs for the contest. The contest was open to all members of the First Coast Fly Fishers, with the only stipulation that the photographs must be fly fishing related.

Several members stepped up to the challenge and we are proud to announce the winners:

First Place **Ryan Curley**

Second Place **Seth Nehrke**

Third Place **Don Edlin**

In addition to having his photograph adorn this month's newsletter, first place winner Ryan Curley will also receive a new Scientific Anglers fly line. The second and third place photographs will grace the July and August newsletter covers, respectively. Additionally, Seth Nehrke and Don Edlin will each receive a Buff bandana. The photographs that didn't make the top three, will be published in future editions of the newsletter.

We would like to thank those members who submitted photographs and helped make this contest a success. There are some excellent photographs in the Club and the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners. A special thanks goes out to Vaughn Cochran and Blackfly Outfitters for allowing the Club to purchase the first, second and third place prizes at cost. We would also like to thank the judges who has the difficult time of selecting the contest winners: Sandy Beach, Neil Down, Rod N. Reel, Tim Burr, and Joe King.

If you missed your opportunity to participate in the contest, fret not. We will hold another contest in a few months.

On the Cover: Ryan Curley with a nice red-fish caught in a creek off of Hecksher Drive.

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FIRST COAST FLY FISH-
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PO BOX 16260

Annual Outing at the Lott's House a Huge Success

On May 19th, Bill and Ann Lott once again graciously opened their home to the First Coast Fly Fishers for their annual fish fry. Over seventy folks showed up to fish and enjoy great food and camaraderie.

John Adams lent his pontoon boat to the cause to ferry members out across the St Johns. A few members managed to catch fish. But for the most part, the bass and bream were uncooperative. But that did not seem to matter. Fishing to a backseat to Bill and Ann's excellent cooking and a day spent with fellow members of the First Coast Fly Fishers.

The Club owes a debt of gratitude to Bill and Ann for their generosity and hospitality. Next to the annual banquet, the outing at Bill and Ann's is one of the best attended, and most anticipated functions of the year. Thank you very much for all that you do and for your commitment to the Club. The Club would like to thank all those who brought covered dishes, helped with the cooking and help set up for the day's events as well as those who stuck around to help clean up. Thank, very much. In a recent forum post, Mike McQuistion said it best, "...what a great bunch we have in our Club."

FROM THE DESK OF BILL AND ANN LOTT

To our Friends at the First Coast Fly Fishers,

We just wanted to thank everyone for participating in the Fish Fry Saturday. We counted 75 people attending, that is a record. We would especially like to thank the guys who came by Friday afternoon and helped me set up everything. That is a big job and we could not have done it ourselves. Several ladies really worked with Ann setting up the foods and the biggest job, cleaning up the kitchen afterwards. There was also a group late Saturday who helped us break everything down, and put our furniture back. We could not do it without everyone chipping in and giving their time to help in lots of ways. Also, all the great food that came through the front door and left with everyone. Thanks to all of you who contributed. What a great day!

All the Best,
Bill and Ann



MEET JUNE'S GUEST SPEAKER: CAPT. DAVID EDENS



Capt. Dave Edens with a 10 lb redfish.

Captain David Edens is the Coast Guard license captain of Fly Cast Charters and is an Orvis Endorsed Fly-Fishing Guide. He has fly fished both coastal and inland waters for almost fifty years. When he began fly tying, he would “pluck” hair from the family dog and cat to make streamers and rob his mother’s sewing box for thread. Since those early years, Capt. Edens has fly fished for trout, steelhead, stripers.

Salmon, false albacore, bonefish, permit, redfish, triple tail, sea trout, carp, bass, bream and anything else that

will take a fly. His fly-fishing travels have taken him from Alaska to the Golden Isles of Georgia, from Vermont to California and most states in between.

Captain Edens is the owner of Fly Cast Charters and Outfitters, LLC in St. Simons, Georgia (www.flycastcharters.com). He is one of only two Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructors in the Golden Isles. He specializes in helping beginning fly fisherman learn how to fly cast as well as helping intermediate casters improve their skills. He is also a Federation of Fly Fishers Professional Guide. Additionally, he has been certified by the Rod Builders Guild as a Professional Rod Builder. Captain Edens is also the owner of Fly Cast Outfitters, which specializes in importing and distributing world class fly fishing reels and accessories at reasonable prices.

You can reach Captain Edens at his web site - www.flycastcharters.com or by phone at 912-289-1061.

RESERVATIONS FOR JULY OUTING

July 20th through the 22nd, the Club will be heading to Stuart, Florida to night fish for snook. We will be staying at the Four Fish Marina and Inn at 2100 NE Indian River Drive in Jensen Beach. It’s been several years since the Club has held an outing in Stuart. This trip will mark the Club’s return to a great area to fish.

If you have never been, the Stuart/Jensen Beach area is a great fishery. In addition to snook, you will have opportunities to take redfish, jacks, sea trout and tarpon. Whether it is power craft or paddle craft, you will need a boat for this outing. If you are without a boat and would like to attend the outing, contact Vice President of Outings Mike Harrigan (outings@fcff.org) and he will partner you up with a boat.

The Four Fish Marina and Inn has boat ramp on the premises and trailer parking. The Inn has a limited number of large and small rooms available. The large

rooms can accommodate 3 people. The small rooms can accommodate 1 to 2 people. The larger rooms are available for \$95/night plus tax and the smaller rooms can be had for \$75/night plus tax. A limited number of rooms are available. So if you are interested in going, it is recommended you make reservations immediately. Contact the hotel at **772-334-0936**.

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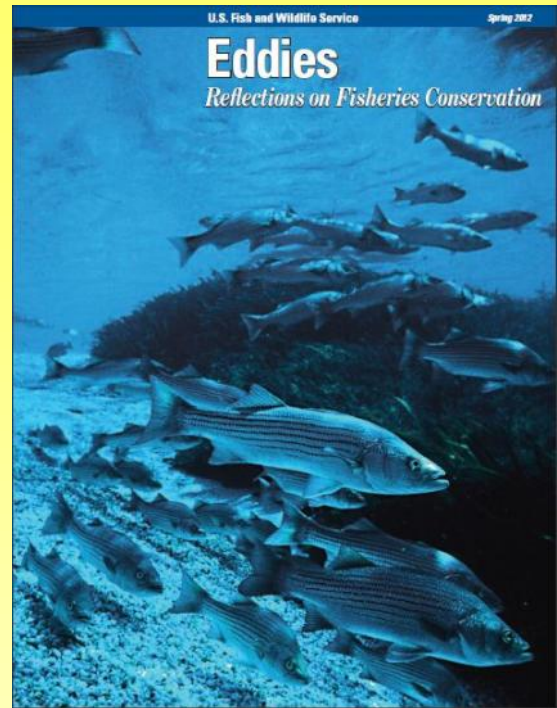
Eddies: Reflections on Fisheries Conservation



The latest issue of *Eddies*, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's quarterly newsletter, is now available to download at <http://www.fws.gov/eddies/>.

If you are not familiar with *Eddies*, it provides a unique look into the work of the USFWS. It also provides historical information regarding fisheries conservation in the United States. *Eddies* seeks to inform its readers of the work – past, present, and future – of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation. Each issue has several feature stories and five regular departments. Assistant Director, Bryan Arroyo, leads each issue with his Headwaters column. Watermarks covers the newsy and noteworthy, including a column by the curator at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery. If you like Antiques Road Show, you'll like Randi Smith's stories.

American Fisheries covers the life history of an important fish, from catfish to the cutthroats, each story written by those who know the fish well. Readers learn about the men and women of conservation from the past – those Pioneers who have worked in fisheries for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1871.



Meanders closes each issue. There, readers find sinuous thoughts and mature and evocative writing – some good story-telling – that pushes at the edges like a mature river wanders a valley floor. The back cover is reserved for a parting snapshot of data that point up the work of the [Division of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation](#).



Baitfish Fly Patterns That Fish Eat

By Capt. Pat Damico - Taken Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

As fly fisherman, we are given a rare opportunity, especially if we tie our own flies because there is no limit to our creativity when sitting down at the tying bench. The variety of materials available to help create great patterns has never been better. When I first began to tie flies, a Herter's catalog and my hunting trips were supplemented with a few trips to local farms where bandy roosters were carefully selected for their plumage. Sunday morning church services had me distracted by fancy feathered hats worn by some of my female neighbors. Each fly as it left the vise was carefully scrutinized to make sure it was perfect. Dry flies were dropped on the table to make sure they bounced and stood upright indicating that they would ride nicely on the waters surface. Wet flies and streamers were carefully contoured to entice subsurface feeding fish.

Although I still enjoy freshwater trout and bass fishing, much of my time is spent fishing the salt. As I get older, my interest in tying size 20 flies has been replaced with larger patterns that frequently duplicate baitfish. I wish I could limit the number of flies I tie and carry, but the desire to tie a new pattern or modification of an existing fly still fascinates me. Holding a killer fly in your hand doesn't necessarily assure success. Think of the many times your perfect fly was mutilated after catching fish repeatedly only to perform better.

Bigger doesn't necessarily mean better when fly fishing. I remember an incident a few years ago when I was wade fishing at Ft. DeSoto Park. Another angler was fly fishing to my right and was casting a fly that looked like it was eight inches long. I waited for him to get closer and



Clouser Minnow

asked him how his morning was going. His response was that he hadn't caught anything even though he saw several fish. The flies he was using were the same he had

successfully used in the surf in Massachusetts, where he did most of his fishing. Large strippers were his targets there, with most of

his fishing after dark. In order to cast such large flies, he was using a ten-weight rod, a weight forward full sinking line and a rather short heavy leader. Fly fisherman can make the same mistake as spin fisherman using tackle that is very heavy. I gave him a few small baitfish patterns and a different leader. He looked at my flies like they would never work. Several minutes later, I saw his rod bent as he shouted to me to get my attention.

Kayak fishing recently with a friend who was using the same setup I had showed the importance of varying your retrieve and depth. He was not having much success, but connected to his first good fish while mimicking my retrieve. His initial movement imparted to the baitfish pattern was jerky and near the surface. I was using a slow, long retrieve after waiting for the fly to sink.

A list of suitable patterns to duplicate baitfish could include Lefty's Deceiver, a half and half, which is half Deceiver and half Clouser minnow, a Clouser Minnow and a Bendback. These all are usually tied with animal hair and feathers. Substitute synthetic material for these patterns. These traditional proven patterns are great, but I must confess I use a lot of totally synthetic patterns that are very productive. My Bead Butt Baitfish, EP patterns as well as those with added flash should be included in your selection. Some unusual colors work well: chartreuse/white, black/purple and brown/orange are some of my favorites. Eyes, frequently oversized, add appeal to any pattern. Matching the hatch is always a good starting point, but sometimes being unconventional leads to better results. The fish are always our best teacher and will reward good performance. Now that you have selected a suitable fly, put it to work in the water and enjoy some great fishing.



Lefty's Deceiver



Pat's Bead Butt Baitfish

The First Flood Tides of the Year

Usually, it is not until August until one begins to think or hear about flood tides and reds in the grass. However, 2012 has presented us with a series of early flood tides. Additionally, the strange spring weather has turned marginal high tides into flood tides.

Several members have taken advantage of these early floods. The reds are making their way to the flats. But they are not in the quantities that one is accustomed to see in the fall.

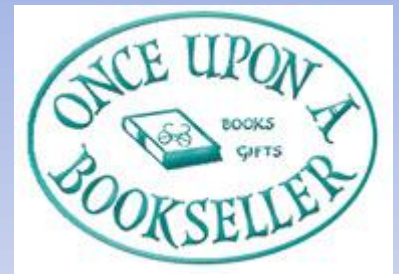
Be sure to check out Capt. Troy James' YouTube video of catching reds on the spring flood tides at <http://youtu.be/m5jTmcZXG8U>

The best dates for flood tides this month include the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 30th.



Clockwise from upper right: Fish-on! by Don Edlin; Don Edlin's nice redfish; the magic hand of Ernie Mancill and a flood tied redfish; a golden redfish smiling for Capt. Troy James' camera; Woody Huband with his first red in the grass of the year.

Thanks to these loyal supporters of the First Coast Fly Fishers!



Newsletter Contributions

If you have any photographs, articles, book or gear reviews, recipes or announcements you would like included in the newsletter, send them along to newsletter editor Jason Sheasley at: pgflyfisher@gmail.com.

