

FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

APRIL 2013



April 2013 Meeting

Monday February 4, 2013 at 7 PM

Speaker: *David Lambert, MCI*

Topic: *Improving Your Hook-Ups By
Improving Your Cast*

Casting above all else is at the heart of fly fishing. In order to catch fish, you must be an consistent and effective caster. Too much attention is spent on casting long distances, when 80% of hook-ups are made within less than 35 feet. Yet, in order to be successful at short and long distances you must be accurate and you must be consistent.

Master Casting Instructor David Lambert will be our guest speaker for the month of April. His presentation will be a precursor to the *Practical Casting Day* to be held on **Sunday April 14th**. David will be drawing from his book *Smart Casts: The New Approach To Efficient Fly Casting & Practice*, to discuss basis casting errors and what you can do to correct them. He will also be discussing his practical approach to casting.

Regardless of your skill level, there is always ways to fine tune and improve your cast, which will lead to more hook-ups. Join us April 1st and learn how!



On the Cover:
David Johnson with a permit he caught last month during a trip to Belize with Rosemarie

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Chattin' with Chan

By Chan Ritchie

We slid Mike Head's battle-hardened old Critchfield into the water at about 10:30 am. With some boats you can sense whether or not they catch fish. This one does. Dried blood stains, dings, dents, oyster-scars and cracks in the hull are all good signs and good medicine. Dick Michaelson's old aluminum boat was such a craft. You could feel it whenever you stepped aboard. I do love a beat-up aluminum battle wagon. You can take them where gel-coated fiber-glass fears to roam.

Mike and I helped a polite rookie couple from the Orlando club to launch, and then invited them to follow us. They had never fished these waters for shad (or fished much at all it appeared). They followed us south. We began casting as soon as we left the launch, my collar turned up against the morning chill still weighing down the air.

Our new friends turned off at the first creek. Mike and I continued south. We got into the shad early and often. Not a hot bite, but enough to keep the adrenalin lurking close by. At noon-thirty we joined the crowd for shore lunch. A fine affair it was. A burger cooked by a chef standing in ankle-deep mud has a pleasing effect that Five-Guys just cannot match. The fellowship of like-minded comrades adds to the taste.



After lunch Mike and I were easing our way back north when we came upon the Orlando couple. They both became animated as they told us of a feeding frenzy they had witnessed. *There were 100 fish churning the water! Seagulls were diving in! They were striking all around us!* They exclaimed. Unfortunately nary a strike was drawn by either.

As we glided away I scoffed at their ineptness. I boldly proclaimed to Mike that had he and I encountered those gluttonous shad-pigs then we surely would have loaded the boat. Why, I arrogantly wondered, whether a good feeding frenzy was wasted on newbies? Thus our undoing was set into motion.

I was bacca-laureate-ized by a fine old, esteemed Jesuit institution. I learned a thing or two about theological angling. Proverbs 16:18 says: *Pride goeth before destruction and arrogance before a fall.* Actually it says *a haughty spirit before a fall.* However, since the word haughty has fallen from grace (Ironic huh?), arrogance will have to do.

The Lord picked a terrible time to remind me of 16:18 because no sooner had my arrogance achieved its zenith the water erupted with the rabid gnashing of jaws and flailing fins. Before the first fly even took to the air I had already envisioned Mike and me on the cover of *Shad Master Magazine*.

Ever quick on the draw, Mike was first to clear leather. His fly touched down and was immediately yanked off the line. I got a dozen cast into the boiling froth as he frantically retied. Nary a strike. Mike flied-up and rejoined the bedlam. We cast into the carnivorous maelstrom with the vigor of two shoe-less and enthusiastic aborigines who were themselves desperately flailing bamboo sticks in a futile attempt to beat to death a giant anaconda.

Finally, two full minutes into the crusade Mike hooked up. It was a small but zealous largemouth bass. After ten minutes of fruitless calisthenics my rotator-cuff engaged in a private conversation with my brain and they decided that I was done. I had changed flies 5 times only to be forsaken by the snobbish pallets of these single-

Lower St Johns Minnow



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minded marauders. Humbled, humiliated and defeated we sat in shock as the waters returned to a placid mirror that belied the brutality that nature can unleash.

We eased in close to shore and found that the target of the frenzy was a tiny grey minnow... about the girth of a round tooth-pick and half the length. Neither Mike nor I could match the hatch.

I said all of that so that I could say this- If you go down for the shad run and if you want to catch these particular fish, then remember a few things: 1) The Lord works in ways that are not only mysterious, but are also timed for maximum effect. Approach these fish with a great deal of humility. 2) Keep a 5 or 6 weight with a floating line on the ready and 3) For the love of Saint Andrew take some teeny, tiny little gray minnow patterns. I have already epoxied some up.

Shad Master Magazine

Premiere Issue!



Shad-Master Chan Tells Us How It's Done

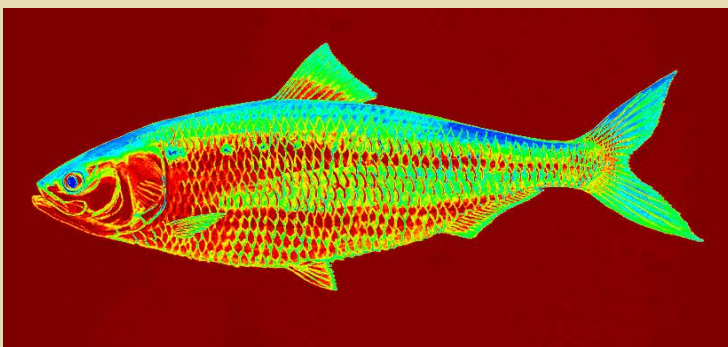
Fly Tying Classes

Have you ever wanted to learn how to tie your own flies? Are those fly tying materials your kids bought you last Christmas lying around gathering dust? Simply need an excuse to get out of the house?

During the month of April the FCFF will be offering **free** fly tying classes to its members **Every Wednesday in April**. The classes will be taught by some of the best tyers in the Club. You will learn general fly tying techniques used to tie some of the most productive patterns for fresh and saltwater fish in northeast Florida.

Don't have any fly tying materials? No need to worry. materials and equipment will be provided.

Detailed information about the classes will be made available at the April meeting.



Practical Casting Day

Sunday April 14, 2013 at 9 AM

M & M Dairy

12300 Holstein Drive, Jacksonville

Want to cast better? Be more accurate? Throw longer lines? Come to FCFF's Practical Casting Day on Sunday, April 14, 9 a.m., at M & M Dairy.

David Lambert will discuss, demonstrate, and diagnose techniques you'll need to hit that target-fish, no matter how close or how far. Lambert is a nationally recognized master casting instructor and associate editor for The Loop, the International Journal for Professional Fly Casting Instructors. Assisting will be FFF Certified Casting Instructor Capt. Rich Santos and expert caster Dick Michaelson.

FCFF Practical Casting Day is free to FCFF members. Lunch and drinks will be provided.

Lambert and crew will demo and teach techniques for:

Wind Casting – Casting into a headwind; casting with wind from either side; casting with a tailwind

Casting Accuracy – Techniques and practice suggestions to help you control where and how you fly should land, for both short and longer casts

Distance Casting – Distance comes when you do everything else right. Demo, discuss, and diagnose distance concepts, problems, and offer some productive practice routines for increasing your casting distance. Lambert will demo and teach the 'square-cast' distance technique.

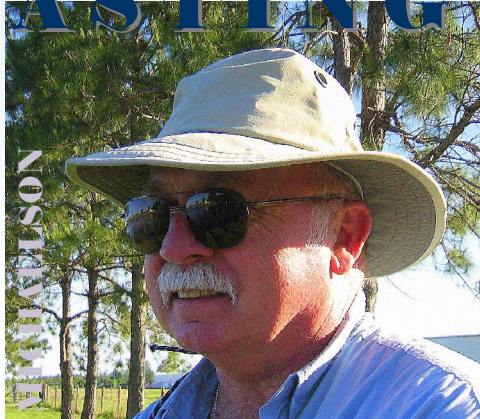
Roll Casts and Distance Roll Casts – A roll cast is a much needed weapon in your casting quiver. It's a valuable in saltwater as in fresh water.

General Practice Techniques – Techniques and methods to guarantee casting improvement

AGENDA

- 09:00 Coffee and doughnuts. Caster warm-up.
- 09:30 Discussion of basic casting fundamentals and day's topics.
- 10:00 Lambert will demonstrate distance and accuracy casts
- 10:15 Casters will break into groups and move to the casting courses for distance and accuracy work
- 12:15 Lunch – provided by the club
- 1:00 Building Practical leaders for fishing our area with Dick Michaelson Materials provided.
- 1:00 Roll Cast and Dynamic roll Cast Demo Outside for those not wanting to build leaders.
- 1:45 Wind Casting, Grass Casting and Quick Casting Demos and course work
- 3:15 Casting competition on the casting courses.
- 4:30 Practical Casting Day ends

FCFF CASTING GURUS





David Lambert, MCI conducting a casting lesson in Titusville



Seth Nehrke with an Everglades Redfish



Federal Law to Ban Fly Tying Materials

By Jason C. Sheasley

Since December, politicians in Washington have been battling back and forth on gun control. In response, American sportsmen have dropped everything to focus their efforts, resources and money to fight any legislation that will infringe upon Second Amendment Rights. However, while they were looking the other way, opportunistic politicians passed new legislation that will have far-reaching effects on fisherman, particularly fly fisherman. Known as the *Enganar-Abril Act*, this new piece of legislation will essentially ban the commercial sale of natural materials for fly tying by 2014.

Sponsored by Democratic Congressman Frank Enganar of New Jersey and Republican Congressman David Abril of California, the legislation was originally drafted based on recommendations made by the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus (<http://animalprotectioncaucus.moran.house.gov>). Those recommendations were made in response to changes in the CITES Treaty. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments whose aim is to ensure that international trade in wild animals does not threaten their survival (<http://www.cites.org>). The United States as well as 176 other nations are have ratified the CITES Treaty. CITES seeks to protect and control certain flora and fauna of the world through various trade initiatives that are implemented by its party nations. The most recent CITES trade initiative seeks to significantly reduce or eliminate the cultivation, harvesting and sale of animal products used for hunting and fishing purposes.

The *Enganar-Abril Act* was passed at the end of the 2012 legislative session so that the United States will maintain favored nation status under the CITES treaty. It was included as a twelfth-hour amendment to a farm subsidy bill that had overwhelming bipartisan support. Essentially, the bill prohibits the commercial sale of certain animal products that are used primarily to harvest other animals. The ban goes into effect in 2014. It is too

early to gage the total effect that the *Enganar-Abril Act* will have on the hunting and fishing industry. However, one thing is certain, the legislation is a major victory for PETA.

PETA was a principal lobbyist in favor of the bill. Near the end of 2012, it was evident that the bill wouldn't receive a separate vote in the House; instead it would be included as a amendment to a subsidy bill. PETA's leadership was well aware of the efforts that various sportsman's organizations were placing on averting far-reaching gun control laws. They gambled that these groups would be so intently focused on the issue of gun control to notice the *Enganar-Abril Act*. PETA's gamble paid off. The Act flew under the radar or practically every sporting organization in the country.

The *Enganar-Abril Act* passed with little to no opposition from sporting organizations and with not so much as a whimper for the traditional "hook and bullet" press. When asked, the a representative for the publisher of *Fly Rod and Reel* magazine stated, "...by the time any of our editorial staff heard about the bill it has already passed. Besides, we have a very tight production schedule. It something is going to be put in the magazine, we need to know about it a minimum of four months in advance."

An associate editor of *Florida Sportsman*, a magazine that has always commented on political issues surrounding the fishing industry, stated that they knew about the *Enganar-Abril Act* several months before it was passed. The associated editor further went on to say that, "...the act really doesn't effect our readership since we have all but phased out fly fishing from our pages. Maybe 30 years ago we would have been all over it. But with recent cutbacks, we have to pick and choose our battles. Let someone else fight for the fly fishermen."

Starting in 2014, American fly fisherman will no longer be able to purchase natural fly tying materials.

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33 Gigged Redfish Result in Fines, Jail Time for Violators!

Editors Note:

If you attended the February Meeting you heard Chris Holleman's firsthand account of this arrest. Congratulations Chris and thanks for all your hard work!

JACKSONVILLE, FL - Possession of 33 gigged redfish recently resulted in fines and jail time for two Fernandina Beach men.

George Bartchlette (DOB 07/16/39) and Ronald Waters (DOB 09/25/65) were caught by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers with 33 redfish taken by illegal method.

FWC officers Chris Holleman, Sandy Blackburn and Tim Sweat worked the case.

"Officer Blackburn let me know a boat was headed my way," said Holleman, who had been on patrol at Holly Point boat ramp in Nassau County. "I could hear the vessel's engine running as they neared in the Nassau River. When they got inside Christopher Creek, they shut down the engine. I could hear the men walking in the marsh approximately 25 yards from the ramp just before they paddled into the ramp."

The officers walked into the marsh and discovered two laundry baskets with 33 redfish. All the fish had punctures consistent with gig marks. There were 19 undersize redfish between 14.25 inches and 17.75 inches, one oversize redfish (29.5 inches) and 13 slot-size redfish.

"We seized the gigs and lights. The case went to the state's attorney and we obtained arrest warrants for Bartchlette and Waters," Holleman said.

Bartchlette was charged with over the bag limit, possession of undersize and oversize fish and illegal take because the fish had been gigged. Waters was charged with illegal take of two fish.

Both men were recently adjudicated guilty in Nassau County. Waters was fined \$1,003. Bartchlette was fined \$4,150 and sentenced to 30 days in jail. His seized equipment was forfeited to the FWC. In addition, Bartchlette received a \$90 fine for operating a vessel with no navigational lights.

"This was a great resource case," said FWC Lt. Clint Thompson, patrol supervisor for Duval and Nassau counties. "The officers involved did an outstanding job. "I'd also like to thank Nassau County Prosecutor Johnna Lessard, who did an outstanding job in prosecuting this case," Thompson said.



Georgia Senate Grants Redfish Saltwater Gamefish Status

On March 28, 2013, the Georgia Senate voted 38 to 12 to grant redfish gamefish status. Once the bill is signed by the governor, redfish will have the distinction of being Georgia's first (and currently only) saltwater gamefish. The gooney has until May 7th to sign the bill into law.

Republican Senator from Brunswick, who voted in favor of the bill said, "*we heard overwhelming support from sports fishermen on the coast.*" Conversely, Democratic Senator Lester Jackson of Savannah voted against the bill stating "*If we exclude local fishermen*

from being able to sell this fish, we stop local entrepreneurs from being able to participate in their craft."

Congratulations Georgia!





Starting in 2014 the only way you will be able to get natural fly tying materials will be if you harvest them yourself!

forward they will have to rely on synthetic counterparts for such things as deer hair and saddle hackles. The ban will not restrict individuals from harvesting their own animal products for their own personal use. However, it will prohibit the individual sale or transfer of such products to other individuals or entities. In short, the effects of the *Enganar-Abril Act*, will be significant and potentially damaging to the already ailing and struggling fly fishing industry.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service will be responsible for enforcing the *Enganar-Abril Act*. As such, the Obama Administration has committed nearly \$500 million to establishing a group of Fish and Wildlife personnel who will be solely responsible for carrying out enforcement of the legislation. Detractors say that the money could be better spent bolstering the economy rather than growing the size of the Federal Government.

The reaction by the fly fishing industry to the passing of this legislation has been predictable, yet at the same time somewhat surprising.

Tom Schmuecker, owner of Wapsi Quality Tying Materials, the largest wholesale and retail seller of fly ty-

ing materials said via email, *"The Enganar-Abril act is an irresponsible piece of legislation that could bring about financial ruin to many in the fly fishing industry. Over the years Wapsi has embraced the use of synthetic fly tying materials. However, no matter how far technology advances, it can never take the place of natural materials."*

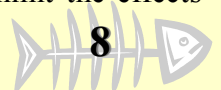
Whiting Farms is the largest fly fishing hackle producer in the country. They operate three ranches in western Colorado where they raise various species of chickens and other fowl exclusively for their hackle. Shortly after the *Enganar-Abril Act* was passed, they issued the following press release: *Unless the Enganar-Abril act is repealed, 2013 will mark the last year that Whiting Farms will be in the fly fishing hackle business. It is troubling that overzealous politicians would pass such legislation without first fully evaluating the consequences. Unfortunately such actions have become far too common an occurrence. As we face the eminent demise of 50 year old business we encourage not only fly fisherman, but everyone in this great nation of ours to hold their politicians accountable. To all of our faithful customers over the years, rest assured, our lawyers are diligently reviewing the new legislation and we will not give up without a fight.*

Orvis, the nations largest fly fishing retailer was asked to weigh-in on the discourse surrounding the *Enganar-Abril Act*. Carlton Updike, a Executive Vice President of Branding said; *"We are saddened that legislation such as the Enganar-Abril Act will negatively impact the deeply rooted traditions of fly fishing. Thankfully, our market share in fly tying materials is marginal at best. We have spend the last 30 years focusing on the clothing, gear and life style that goes along with fly fishing. Our customers are chasing an experience as much as they are chasing a fish. Does it really matter what the fly is made out of?"*

When asked about their thoughts on the *Enganar-Abril Act*, a representative from the Federation of Fly Fishers stated, *"We have evolved into an organization that focuses on the casting component of fly fishing rather than fly tying. It doesn't really matter whether the fly is made out of natural fibers or synthetic materials as long the elements of the cast are there it is still called fly fishing."*

It will be years before the full effects of the *Enganar-Abril Act* on the fly fishing industry will be known. In the meantime can anything be done to limit the effects of the Act? Actually there is.

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Twenty Questions with FCFF President...

1. Where are you originally from and how long have you lived in the Jacksonville-Area?

I'm born and raised in Jacksonville, been here all of my 29 years

2. What is your job/profession?

Surgical Device Sales

3. Tell us a little something about your family?

My dad's side of the family has been farming in the Midwest for over 100 years

4. How long have you been fly fishing?

Around 15 years

5. Which living person do you admire most?

Flip Pallot

6. Where is your favorite place to fish?

The Florida Keys

7. With what person (living or dead) would you like to spend a day on the water?

Capt. Paul O'Donnell - he just passed away, and he was a mentor to me early on, he ran a charter boat out of Islamorada and I mated for him a little in college when he needed an extra hand in sailfish tournaments.

8. Aside from the obvious (rod, reel and flies) what piece of fly fishing gear do you consider essential to have with you on the water?

A headlamp - I was wade fishing last fall and had to make my way through the woods after dark, I forgot my headlamp; I got turned around in the palmettos, and had to make my way out of the woods following the moon. If it had been cloudy or moonless it would have been a long walk back through the marsh to the road.



Ryan Curley

9. What is your "go-to" fly?

Black and purple EP minnow

10. What is your favorite fish to catch on a fly rod.

Redfish

11. What is your bucket list fish ie, what fish haven't you caught on a fly rod but would like to do so?

Atlantic Sailfish and a 40 pound permit

12. Who are your favorite writers?

James A. Mickener and Dan O'Brien

13. What is on your iPod (ie what kind of music do you listen to)?

Outlaw Country and New Orleans Blues

14. How many fly rods do you own?

Too many but I love them all

15. What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Docklight Snookin'



16. What is your idea of a perfect day on the water?

Slick calm early morning outgoing tide in Hannah Mills in the fall

17. Which talent or skill would you most like to have?

Catching sheepshead in the flood grass like Robo

18. Which actor would play you in the movie about your life and why?

Clint Eastwood - he's rugged and about as American as you can get.

19. What is your most treasured possession?

Its not mine yet, but a 300 Weatherby rifle my dad has hunted with for the last 25 years. Its been

stomped on by horses, dropped, fallen on, and carried through some of the most beautiful places on earth. Its got lots of character and lots of hunting mojo.

20. What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

My perfectionist mentality when it comes to fly tying

Bonus Question: What do you consider your greatest achievement?

It hasn't happened yet, hopefully it will someday, but there is always another great achievement to attain right?



Bahamas Bonefish Adventure

By Ryan Curley

I have wanted to go down to the Bahamas with Dave Borries and his group for a long time now, and this year Jeff Bivins and I managed to make it happen. David, Jeff, Don and his lovely brother Ronnie, Jim Livermore and I traveled over last Friday and were fishing by 10:45am. I managed my first bone by noon and we were off to the races for the week. This was one

of the most memorable trips I have taken, the group was great and entertainment was had on and off of the water. The weather was difficult, we had strong winds and very high tides for most of the trip, but we were blessed with some beautiful days as well. I will just let the pictures do the rest of the talking, it was an awesome trip to say the least. **Photos on Page 12.**



FWC Tarpon and Bonefish Regulation Workshops Planned for Early April

Upcoming workshops are planned by FWC to discuss making tarpon and bonefish catch-and-release only fisheries. The purpose of these workshops is to gather public input on potential changes in the tarpon and bonefish rules to make them catch-and-release only fisheries throughout Florida's state and federal waters. Possible changes include:

- Eliminating the tarpon bag limit and allowing the harvest and possession of a single tarpon in conjunction with a tarpon tag only when in pursuit of an IGFA record.
- Modifying the tarpon tag program, including reporting requirements and calendar year
- Discontinuing the bonefish tournament exemption permit that allows tournament anglers to temporarily possess bonefish for transport to a tournament scale.

We value your input and hope that you can join in. For more information please follow [this link to the FWC site](#).

The proposed workshops are as follows:

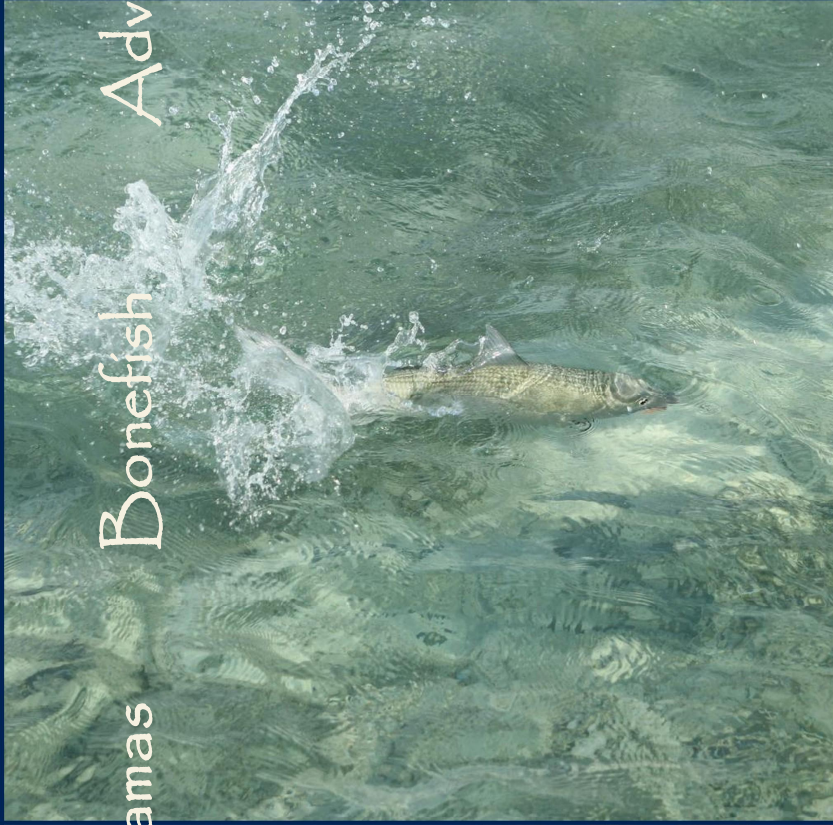
April 1, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EDT), Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 100 Eighth Ave. S.E., Karen A. Steidinger Auditorium, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

April 2, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EDT), IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum, 300 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004

April 3, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EDT), City of Key Colony Beach – City Hall Building, City Hall, Auditorium, Mile Marker 53.5, 600 W. Ocean Drive, Key Colony Beach, FL 33051

April 8, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EDT) (5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CDT) Statewide webinar and telephone conference call. More information about how to participate in the webinar or conference call will be available on FWC website prior to the webinar date.





Bahamas Bonefish Adventure



Blackfly Wins MSNBCC National Best Logo Competition

On January 20th, 2013, Vaughn Cochran's Blackfly logo won the Best Business Logo contest sponsored by MSNBC's Your Business program hosted by J.J. Ramberg. His award was featured on MSNBC's Your Business television show as well as on the TODAY Show.

According to Cochran, "winning awards is always a surprise and somewhat overwhelming for me. As an artist and as a businessman I strive to blend creativity and thoughtfulness in every work I complete. The Blackfly sumi-brush ink painting emerged from a single studio event and cascaded very simply and organically from one fly painting to the next. In a sense, the painting is the sum of my life's work, all distilled into one rendering. Since creating Blackfly in 1992, the painting and the logo has received universal appeal from anglers, boaters, and many other active-outdoor participants. It has become a lifestyle brand as much as it is a fly fishing brand.

"The MSNBC award is of particular significance not just because it is a nationally syndicated digital and television program. It's a tremendous victory for me in that I was in competition with some of the top business brands in the country in a playing field much larger than the outdoor vertical market. The fact that I won by votes cast by an independent audience is amazing. It's very satisfying to know that Blackfly speaks to groups who know nothing about fishing. I am overwhelmed and couldn't be more pleased."

The recent award comes at an opportune time, particularly because Cochran and his partners are opening the doors to Blackfly Lodge, the recent addition to the Blackfly brand. Located at Schooner Bay on Abaco Island, the Bahamas, Blackfly Lodge has recently concluded a multi-year, multi-million dollar expansion project. Anglers visiting the lodge will enjoy a series of master suites, a "living room" style angler's bar, and a unique ocean-to-the-table restaurant featuring an open kitchen concept. A new fleet of fishing boats includes specially designed East Cape flats skiffs as well as a 31' Yellowfin for offshore fly fishing.

Fly Tying Material Ban

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Sit back and relax. APRIL FOOLS!



ORDER NOW

FCFF SHIRTS



The perfect gift for the fly fisher in your life!

Sport Tek, 100% polyester Dri Mesh Performance long sleeve shirts are now available for \$30 a piece. These shirts come in a variety of colors with an image of a Clouser Minnow and "The tug is the drug" on the left front breast and the FCFF logo on the back.

The Club hopes to be able to offer button-down shirts in the near future. More information about these shirts should be available at the September meeting.

If you are interesting in purchasing one of these performance shirts so that you can be the envy of the grass flats, contact Don Edlin by phone **904-261-4065**, or by email dpedlin@comcast.net. When ordering, Don will need to know your shirt size and the color you want.

When you place your order, be sure to thank Don for coordinating everything.



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Please join us and thanking these fine guides and businesses for contributing to our 2013 Annual Banquet.

Capt. Rich Santos
www.FlyFishTnx.com



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