

FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

MAY 2015



Educating, Restoring, Conserving through Fly Fishing

Monday May 4th, 2015 Meeting 7^{PM} at the Southpoint Marriott Fishing the St Johns River With Adams and McQuiston

This month we have a treat for you! Join the First Coast Fly Fishers on Monday May 4th as our own Pirates of Picolata discuss strategies for fishing the St Johns River. Between the two of them, John Adams and Mike McQuiston have about 150 years worth of experience fishing for bass, bream and anything that swims from their respective compounds on the St. Johns. John and Mike's talk will coincide with this month's outing on the St Johns.

If you have visited the FCFF Forum lately you know that John and Mike have been catching a mess of bream. Monday night they will tell you what you need to know so that you too can fill your frying pan with bream filets. You will learn where and when to fish as well as what flies and techniques work best.

If you know John and Mike, then you know the night will be entertaining as well as informative. The meeting is guaranteed to get you primed for May's outing on May 16th.

The casting clinic with Dave Lambert has been held over to May 2nd because of inclement weather last month. During the Clinic Outings Chairman Jeff Bivins will be tying up flies for the May 16th outing.



On the Cover:

Don Edlin Bonefish Selfie

Photograph by Don Edlin and his Selfie Stick

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FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

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Legislation Advances to Benefit Saltwater Recreational Fishing

House Natural Resources Committee approves Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Bill

Leaders in the recreational fishing and boating community yesterday highlighted the progress in elevating the importance of saltwater recreational fishing in the nation's primary law governing marine fisheries management. The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources yesterday approved a bill sponsored by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), H.R. 1335, to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), which addresses top priorities of the recreational fishing community.

These priorities were identified by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management, also known as the Morris-Deal Commission after co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boats. In 2014, the Morris-Deal Commission released "A Vision for Managing America's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries," which includes six key policy changes to produce the full range of saltwater recreational fishing's social, economic and conservation benefits to the nation.

"The recreational fishing community owes a debt of gratitude to Chairman Rob Bishop and Congressman Don Young for incorporating meaningful changes to recreational fisheries management into the reauthorization of the nation's marine fisheries law," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Coastal Conservation. "The Morris-Deal Report set forth a vision for the future of saltwater recreational fishing, and this bill would help to achieve that vision."

"The nation's 11 million saltwater recreational anglers have a \$70 billion economic impact annually and support 450,000 jobs,"

said Mike Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association. "However, federal marine fisheries management has never sufficiently acknowledged the importance of recreational fishing to the nation. H.R. 1335 would enact many of the necessary changes to elevate saltwater recreational fishing to the level it deserves."

The recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission include:

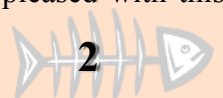
- ⦿ Establishing a national policy for recreational fishing
- ⦿ Adopting a revised approach to saltwater recreational fisheries management
- ⦿ Allocating marine fisheries for the greatest benefit to the nation
- ⦿ Creating reasonable latitude in stock rebuilding timelines
- ⦿ Codifying a process for cooperative management
- ⦿ Managing for the forage base

"Management that emphasizes conservation and abundance, and allows for consistent access to public resources for saltwater anglers, was at the heart of the recommendations made by the Morris-Deal Commission," said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "Including those recommendations into legislation aimed at improving our nation's fisheries management means Congress is recognizing the importance of angling to American culture and our economy."

"The broad coalition of leading recreational fishing and boating organizations that has come together to support our community's priorities should be pleased with this



Continued on page 13



My Winter on
Grand Bahama Island
2015



By Kevin Becker

Since my Wife and I are both retired, I began searching for a place in warm weather that we could escape our Minnesota Winter and catch some fish while doing so. Preferably Bonefish that I did not have to have a boat to fish. We also wanted a bit of infrastructure as we were going to be gone for over 2 months. Having been on some remote islands of the Bahamas such as Exuma and Abaco before, we both knew we would have a hard time spending that much time on a remote island. So, we looked at Grand Bahama Island, which had Freeport, a 'City' of 55,000 plus people. This would offer us decent Grocery Shopping, restaurants and other amenities that other Bonefish locations would not. We were perfectly willing to accept less than 'Ideal' fishing conditions to make a 'comfortable winter home.

RESEARCH

Using VRBO (Vacation Rental by Owner), I booked a place called Dolphin Cove Apartments in Freeport. The Apartments only had 12 Units and was about 2-3 Blocks from the Ocean on a Saltwater Canal. We ended up renting a One Bedroom unit for about \$2,600 a month. It was furnished very nicely with Stainless Steel appliances, granite counter-tops. Top notch furniture and furnishings. Wains-coatings and crown molding and exquisite tile flooring accented the apartment with a Balcony that over looked the turquoise waters of the Canal. It also had high speed internet and 2 Flat Screen TVs to keep in touch with the 'Outside World'.

I also needed a Car for our 2-3 month adventure, so I contacted Brad's Car Rental in Freeport and arranged for a Compact car at a monthly rate of about \$1200.



One bedroom flat at Dolphin Cove Apartments in Freeport

The car insurance would be handled by my credit card company, rented on 30 day contracts.

Now I needed a Bonefish Guide to get me into the remote Bonefish Flats and maybe some Permit Fishing. And my goal was to DIY Bonefish after I honed my skills. Searching the internet I came across 'Firefly Bonefishing' and a guide named Whitney Rolle. I read his Bio and learned that he had been a guide at Deep Water Cay Bonefishing Lodge for 19 years before venturing out on his own with a couple other guides. Whitney had guided quite a few celebrities such as Prince Phillip of England. He also guided many other Fly Fishing notables such as Flip Pallot and Andy Mill. I contacted Whitney by e-mail and asked him if he would consider guiding me without staying in his Lodge, as I had an apartment in Freeport. He agreed, since I was fishing from January through Early March, this was his non busy time of the year and he would be open quite a bit. I told him that I would contact him when I arrived in Freeport in January of 2015. He also asked me if I was interested in Fishing Permit as he knew where some hung out. Interested, I said "I am 'All In' on the Permit Fishing!"

ARRIVAL

We arrived in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas on Dec 30, 2014 to a wonderful 77 degrees, which was a great respite to the Minneapolis 5 degrees that we had left that morning. We arrived at our rental apartment in short order and were busy setting up our home. In my younger years, I may have been stringing up a fly rod and heading to the beach, but I had 2 ½ months to enjoy this island and I was going to be patient, thinking of the 'long term' rather than the short term. And I might also mention that my intent was not to fish the entire 2 ½ months on this island.

I did look at the weather forecast and it looked warmer than normal for Freeport and Sunny Skies and light winds. The next day I contacted my guide, Whitney and asked if he wanted to go fishing on Sunday, January 4th. I needed a guide, as I had not been Bonefishing for 5 years as I have been concentrating on Tarpon and Redfish and was really 'Rusty'. So, I knew I needed help in spotting fish, getting my Strip and Retrieve down and a tight line for some confidence. Whitney sent me an e-mail in short order and we were booked for Sunday. The next few days I spent with my wife grocery shopping and setting up the household for our winter home. I was proud of myself for not stringing up a fly rod and running

down to the Ocean 2 blocks away and flailing away.

I even saw a school of 5 Bonefish in our Canal in the *Backyard* and I left the *Fly Rod* in the apartment. The apartment owner told me that they always swim up and down the canal.

FIRST G.B.I BONEFISH

On Sunday, January 4th my wife and I had to drive to the East End of Grand Bahama Island to meet Whitney, my Bonefish Guide. It is about a 55 Mile drive to the East End of Grand Bahama Island to Mcleans Town (Conch Cracking Capital of the World). I met Whitney at the Dock and we headed out for about ½ hour onto some remote flats. No other fisherman in sight, as this is January and a low season, so I pretty much had a few hundred miles of flats to myself. My wife does not fish, but enjoys a day in the boat to see the flats and wildlife, shells, birds, sharks etc. And it is Sunny and not cold winter like Minnesota!

In the first hour of fishing I realized that I was basically blind and could not see the Bonefish at all. I knew it would take me a few days to see them well. By the afternoon, I was picking them up and getting my retrieve right and setting the hook properly, that I managed to land 14 Bonefish by the end of the day. I had been used constantly stripping the fly for Tarpon and Redfish and it took me awhile to adjust to the stopping of the fly for the Bonefish.

In my mind this Island was as good a Bonefishery than anywhere I've been including Honduras, Mexico, Christmas Island, Belize. I saw more and bigger bonefish that day than anywhere else I'd been. The average size Bonefish I was catching was very Nice! I was 'Hooked'. I told Whitney that I would like to book him about once a week, if he was available and that I would like to spend some time concentrating on Permit. He agreed, and we had a partnership! Whitney explained to me that we needed a day with plenty of sun, but most importantly very Light winds to be able to get out to the Ocean Side Flats where the permit hang out.

Grand Bahama seems to have a very nice average size Bonefish. And as Whitney explained to me, the winter months the very small Bones do not like to come up on the flats, which makes the average Size fish much bigger in the winter.

So, now I had been on this Island less than 1 week and had landed 14 bonefish and saw the potential of this



One of 14 bonefish Kevin caught on his first day fishing Grand Bahama Island

fishery and I was elated. I now focused on getting the finishing touches on our apartment for the longterm. One of the problems was calling the states. It was expensive at about \$1 a minute. There are still pay phones in the Bahamas, which tourists use because their U.S. cell phones do not work there. I bought a Bahamas cell phone for emergencies for about \$50, with \$10 worth of minutes, that thankfully I did not have to use. A great thing about our apartment was that we had super fast internet speed at 50 mbps. So I spent some time researching Voice over IP and found that I could get a device called OBi200 with Ringto Service and make free calls to the States and Canada, and have a dedicated phone number to our Apartment. This way my wife could stay in touch with family and friends for our extended stay. I also bought a Goodge Chromecast so that we could stream the latest movies to our apartment. I bought them on E-bay, but shipping to the Bahamas is not as simple as the U.S. I had to find an 'Import Service' to ship the items to, so that I could pay Customs Fees and Vat Tax Fees. I used a Service called 'E-Z Imports' in Freeport.

Why is this important to bonefishing you ask? The answer is that I had to make G.B.I. our home, so that my wife would come back next year. I have a 'low-maintenance' wife who would follow me to the ends of the earth, but she does not fish and I want to make sure she is happy. Anyway, she loved our time on G.B.I. as we are booked for 3 months next year and I get to fish a lot! These are im-



portant details not to be overlooked!

The next week, my wife and I walked a lot of the beaches around Freeport, enjoying the nice sunny weather. To my amazement, every beach we walked I would see bonefish. Catchable bonefish! I did not bring my fly rod, as I was trying to 'fly under the radar' with my enthusiasm. But, I was now convinced that I could catch bonefish on my own at this end of the island.

DIY BONEFISH

So, pretty much every afternoon with a favorable wind (not a stiff on-shore wind) and within 3 hours of a low tide, I would drive about 1 mile to a beach from where we lived with a fly rod in hand. Usually within a half hour I would spot a bonefish to cast to.

When I first started doing this I would wade about knee deep and walk the beach. I would see a lot of bonefish this way, but most were fleeing as they would see me before I would see them. I decided that I would wait for them to swim to me, so that I could get a cast to them before they were spooked. Maybe this is because I am old and lazy, but waiting for them instead of wading for them worked for me. I noticed that they usually followed the coral areas next to the sandy areas. I could not see them unless they ventured out onto the sand, but they seemed to stay near the darker coral areas. I could usually get a good cast to them and hook one, which was very satisfying. One hookup was plenty for me

As I started looking at the distance the guide was looking, I became much more proficient at spotting the fish he had spotted. And after 3-4 sessions with the guide, I was spotting the fish almost as soon as he did.

and I usually drove home and was back under a Palm tree with a Gin Gimlet in 10 minutes. OK, Life is pretty much perfect now!

I had a copy of Rod Hamilton's book [*Do it Yourself Bonefishing*](#) and fished several of the spots he mentions with my guide. I elected to fish spots close to home, and not make it an all day excursion when I was on my own. Usually I was gone 2-3 hours. I was probably not fishing in a very productive place at all, but it would give up the occasional fish and I was satisfied.

GUIDED VS. DIY BONEFISHING

A few things stood out for me when fishing on my own compared with fishing with the guide out of the boat. The first thing is spotting fish. The guide is usually looking out 80-100 feet or more in front of the boat for signs of fish. When I started fishing with him I was looking about half that far and this made it very difficult to spot the fish he was telling me to cast at. By the time I saw the fish at 40-50 feet they were starting to spook because of the boat and it was pretty much over. As I started looking at the distance the guide was looking, I became much more proficient at spotting the fish he had spotted. And after 3-4 sessions with the guide, I was spotting the fish almost as soon as he did. Spotting fish from a distance is much easier from a boat, as you are higher off the water.

This is why the casts from a boat have to be much longer than the casts while wading. When I was fishing on my



own, I rarely made cast much longer than 40 feet. A lot of the time the casts were only 25 feet. The boat fishing gave me a lot more chances at bonefish than wading, but the casts were a lot more difficult from a moving platform and more susceptible from wind as you were up higher, and of course the casts were a lot longer. I scared a lot more bonefish from the boat than I did wading.

PERMIT

After about 3 sessions with my Guide chasing Bonefish, I arrived at the dock and he asked me if I had my permit flies ready. He said the winds are down and we should try to get out to the Ocean Side Flats. Again, I was 'All in' on this plan, as I had my 10 weight ready to go.

I had caught plenty of bonefish by then and it would be easy to concentrate on permit or a big bonefish. I have always preferred going after a trophy fish than catching "numbers." I have spent the last 20 years of my fishing life chasing steelhead, tarpon, trophy redfish and none of these species give you numbers, and getting skunked is most often 'Par for the course'.

After about a ½ hour ride in mostly open water, we arrived at some flats that pretty much popped out of nowhere. By the time we got there, the wind had started kicking up, and in about ½ hour we were pretty much blown off the flat and we had to get back towards the mainland and find some Bonefish. We had some unusually bad weather this winter as the whole east coast of the U.S. experienced many snow storms and record cold temperatures. This was all putting a 'wrench' into my permit fishing.

I waited and watched the weather for about two weeks and it looked like we had a calmer spate of weather coming. This was confirmed by an e-mail from my guide when he said "*Weather looks good on Sunday. Bring your Permit flies*".

This time we went out to those same flats and the water was almost dead calm. Whitney stopped the boat and got out his push pole. I had just climbed onto the fore-deck, when two Permit tails popped up about 50 feet in front of the Boat. Whitney had not seen them yet, as I was pointing and stripping out line as fast as I could. I got a shot at them about 60-70 feet away. Permit Casts are almost always longer than Bonefish Casts, as they are much Spookier. Whitney told me one chased my fly. They were very hard to see on the grass, unless



Kevin and Guide Whitney with a barracuda

their tails were out of the water. I got about 4 more shots that morning, and 2 more fish came over and 'inspected' my fly, but did not eat. That's permit fishing.

For whatever reason, we could not find any permit that afternoon, but noticed hundreds, if not thousands of Barracuda laid up on the flats warming themselves after a long cold-front. I had great fun throwing P\poppers at them and retrieving as fast as I could. Most of the retrieves had 4 or 5 'cudas chasing down the fly. Getting them to eat was not an easy task, but I did catch a 5 footer and a smaller 3 footer. The big one escaped at the boat, but his little brother posed for a picture with myself and Whitney. Whitney had him over for dinner that evening.

The next time I fished permit with Whitney was about 10 days later and we were now into early March and much warmer weather. We headed out to those same Ocean Side Flats and found some more permit, but they seemed more on the move than feeding. I did get a couple more shots at permit that morning and a 'Lean' towards my fly, but finished with a Bonefish before lunch. Whitney planned to go to another flat where he has found permit. Whitney slowed his boat near a football sized flat of pink sand and aquamarine water that was two feet deep. Whitney had spotted two black stingrays, one at each end of the flat. He said "the far one looks like it may have some permit following him". Whitney got out his push pole and stayed on the edge of the flat as he got within about 70-80 feet of the ray. Sure enough there were

two large permit circling the Stingray and following him around on the Flat.

This is the very best situation in permit fishing. The permit are waiting for the Stingray to dislodge crabs, so that they can get the 'Easy Meal'. The strategy here is to place your fly on the back of the ray and move it towards the Permit like it has been unearthed by the Stingray. I actually got 4 casts into the Ray, before one of the Permit was hooked. I was trying to keep my composure and just make good casts. Whitney had told me earlier that very experienced fly fisherman and expert casters, fold up like a 'Paper Bag' when casting to

a Permit. I concentrated my casting and tried not to 'Want the permit too much'. I did not 'Fold up' until after the Permit was hooked. I then pretty much turned into a bowl of jello for the half-hour battle on my 10 weight. That fish was stronger than some 70-80 pound Tarpon I've landed. I did manage to break that 10 weight when the Permit was close to the boat, but Whitney still managed to tail the fish. I was physically and emotionally spent and since I broke the rod, we elected to call it a day and celebrate with a Beer. I am still celebrating. That was my last cast on Grand Bahama Island until next winter."



FOR SALE



2000 Pathfinder 1810V



- ◎ Yamaha 130hp (130TLRY) V4 2 stroke with 705 hours and a 3-blade stainless steel prop - just underwent full service Dec 2014 (carb cleaning, water pump, thermostats, lower unit oil, ect)
- ◎ Minn Kota 24v 80# thrust detachable TM - new 2008
- ◎ 2 Barracuda TM batteries - new 2013
- ◎ Stealth on-board TM charger
- ◎ Cranking Battery - New 2013
- ◎ FloScan onboard fuel monitoring system
- ◎ Garmin 250C color Fishfinder
- ◎ Garmin 182C color GPS
- ◎ Standard Horizon Intrepid VHF
- ◎ Ritchie Compass
- ◎ Guest rotary 3 position battery switch

- ◎ 4-bow detachable fighting lady yellow bimini
- ◎ Custom poling platform with rod holders
- ◎ Loadmaster trailer (not trailer in pics) - new axle, leaf springs & hubs Nov 2014 - new tires April 2015
- ◎ Lenco trim tabs
- ◎ Custom sissy bar on back of front deck - this thing rules in big seas!!
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BLACK FLY FLOOD TIDE
FESTIVAL



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT... BOBCAT VS. SHARK

*From the US Fish & Wildlife Service Website
(www.fws.gov)*

The Backstory:

On a stroll while at Sebastian Inlet State Park, John Bailey noticed what he thought was a dog staring into the water. Upon closer inspection he realized it was a bobcat, transfixed on a shark feeding on some smaller fish. All of a sudden, the bobcat leapt into the water atop the shark and dragged it ashore! After Bailey took the photo the cat dropped its catch and ran into the woods. So what can we learn about this bobcat fishing for one of the ocean's top predators?

As blogs and news stations pick up the story and it's deemed "viral" online, we wanted to take a closer look at the situation.

Bobcat vs. Shark: Meet the Animals

Yes, this is a photo of a bobcat. We received a number of questions online as to whether this was "really was a bobcat" and if the photo was real. There are several things that make biologists confident that it is in fact a bobcat. The size of the animal, the spot on the back of the ears and hind legs, and the characteristic bobtail all point to a bobcat.



Physical characteristics

Bobcat

Weight: 20-30 lbs

Shoulder height: 1.5 ft

BL: 2.5 ft

TL: 6 in

Total length: 3 ft

Back of ears: White spot

Tail tip: white underside

Generally more reddish tan, white underside, spots variable (large/bold, small/numerous - blending)



Identifying the Shark:

Because of the angle of the animal, identifying the shark proved a bit trickier. Our best guess is Atlantic sharpnose shark, *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*.

While it's a tough picture from which to identify the shark, one key feature seems evident, the placement of second dorsal relative to the anal fin. The origin of second dorsal appears about the mid-point of the anal fin.



This is what leads people The adults are usually a little under three feet.

This shark and an array of other shark species are typically within the surf zone and adjacent nearshore waters in this area of Florida during this time of year.

Bobcats fishing for sharks?

Studies have shown that bobcats mostly eat rabbits and rodents (rodents such as cotton rats, mice and squirrels), but will also eat birds, deer and occasionally reptiles and amphibians. It's somewhat unusual for bobcats to eat fish and fish typically would make up only a very small percentage of the diet. Bobcats are opportunistic hunters but it's unlikely bobcats often actively search for fish to catch. However, it is probably something they will do if the chance presents itself.

The bobcat is found widely distributed throughout most of North America, and has adapted well to neighborhoods throughout Florida. It's equally at home in deep forest, swamps, and hammock land. Thick patches of saw palmetto and dense shrub thickets are important as den and resting sites in Florida.

Where Was the Photo Taken?

The direction of the shadows in the photo were confusing some people as well, so we wanted to clarify that there are coastal areas on the west and east sides of the Sebastian Inlet State Park.



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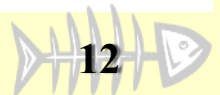
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Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Bill

Continued from page 2

bill," said Jim Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. "RFA is proud to have participated as part of this coalition."

One of the recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission was addressed by an amendment offered by Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) that would prompt a review of quota allocations in fisheries in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico with both a commercial and recreational component. Despite the tremendous importance that allocation decisions have in maximizing the benefits that our fisheries provide to the nation, federal fisheries managers have not revisited allocations – most of which were determined decades ago – primarily because of a lack of clear guidance on how decisions should be made and because these decisions are inherently difficult.

"Congressman Duncan's amendment is a significant achievement for ensuring that the benefits of our nation's fisheries are maximized," said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "For far too long, allocations have been rusted shut, and we applaud Congressman Duncan for his leadership on this critically important issue."

A separate amendment offered by Congressman Garret Graves (R-La.) that would transfer management Gulf of Mexico red snapper to the five Gulf states failed to be included. However, there was widespread agreement expressed by committee members that Gulf red snapper management is broken and in need of significant changes.

"Rep. Graves is a great leader for sportsmen and women in the Gulf Coast," said Angers. "He understands the challenges of sound resource management and is working to get anglers back on the water."

"We hope that as MSA moves forward there will be additional opportunities to enact the Gulf states' plan," said Patrick Murray, president of the Coastal Conservation Association. "MSA's reauthorization surely has a long road ahead, but H.R. 1335 provides the recreational fishing community with a very solid first step."



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Or

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www.dumfish.net

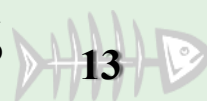
Capt. Lawrence Piper
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www.theanglersmark.com

Just a Reminder...

The July 2015 outing is scheduled for the weekend of July 18th in Stuart, where we will be fishing for snook under the dock lights. This outing will require that you make overnight accommodations. Five rooms have been reserved at the River Palm Cottages and Fish Camp for the Club. If you plan to attend the outing, please make your reservations now by calling (772) 334-0401 (www.riverpalmcottages.com). The fish camp is located along the western side of the Indian River and provides easy access to some great snook fishing. Don't delay if you want to book a room. Keep in mind you can sleep multiple people to a room/cottage. So plan to bunk with someone to help defray the costs.



The Dixie Darter

Here is a fly you will want to have in your box when we fish the St Johns River later this month. It is the Dixie Darter designed by Dana Griffin from Gainesville, Florida. The fly is designed to imitate the colorful darter minnows that are found in freshwater in many southern waters. Its a great fly for bream and even bass. The fly is tied on a 3X long, size 8 streamer hook. A tungsten bead head gives the fly some weight.

Dana has been fishing all his life. He is a founding member and the first president of the North Florida Fly Fishers. He is an Emeritus Professor of Biology at the University of Florida.

If you are reading this newsletter from an internet enabled device, click on the photograph below. Otherwise type the following URL in your internet browser: <https://youtu.be/QmeCbQ-o1l4>.



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Dick Michaelson recently caught this 21-inch, largemouth bass in a neighborhood lake on the south side of Jacksonville. Dick was using a white Round Denny on . A bream hit the fly at almost the same time as bass hit the bream. According to Dick the bass put a nice bend in his 6-weight.

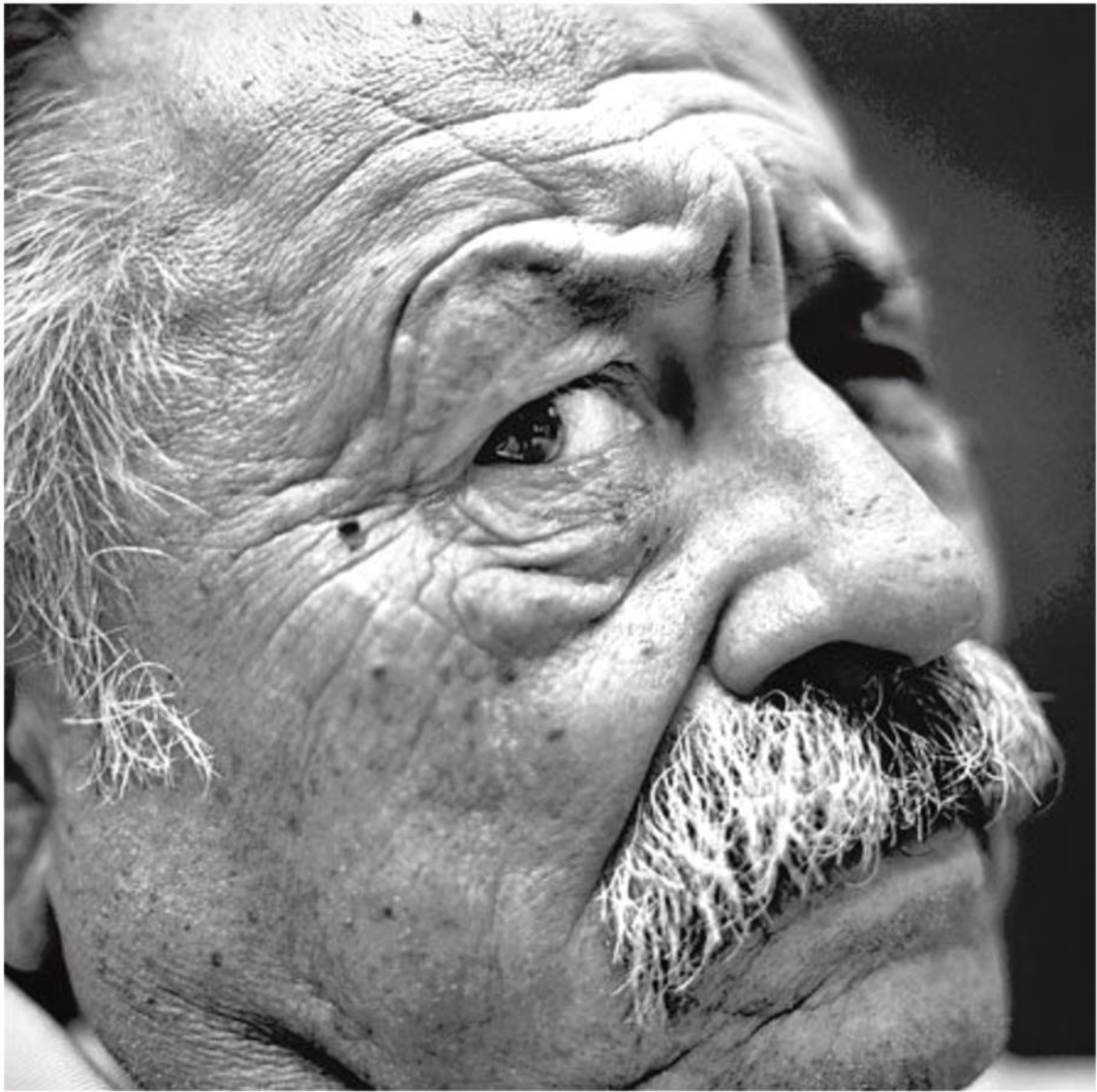


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“Fishing makes us less the hostages to the horrors of making a living. In some Jungian sense it returns us to the aesthetics of the ancient art of gathering and hunting for food. It is a time warp we may step into for a little piece.

Jim Harrison

A Plaster Trout in Worm Heaven (1978)

May Outing

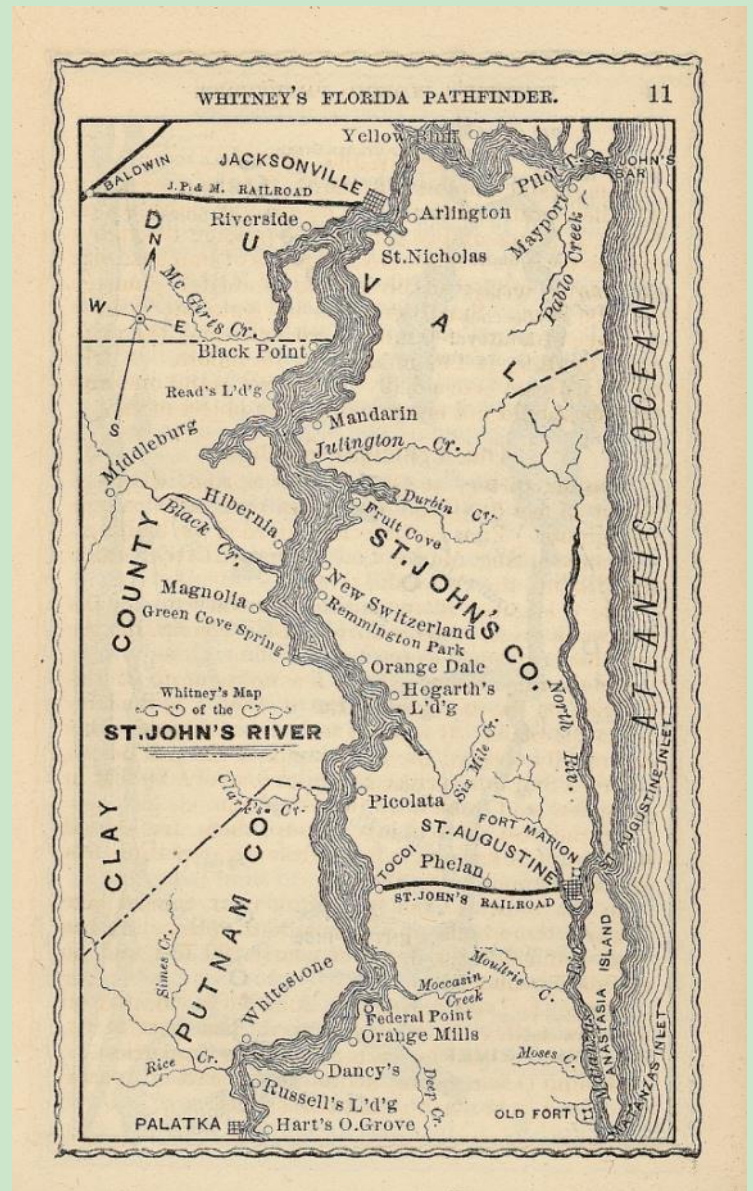
St Johns River for Bass and Bream

The St. Johns River is steeped in history. Around 5,000 years ago pre-Columbian Indians began to inhabit the banks of the river. From these early inhabitants sprang the St. Johns culture, which thrived from around 500 BC to the 17th century. These people, which included the Timucua, were fisherman and looked to the River as a source of sustenance and life.

The River is 310 miles long, the longest in Florida, and drains over 8,840 square miles. It is one of the few rivers in North America that flow north. In 1774, Pennsylvania Quaker William Bartram traversed the St Johns making note of the flora and fauna along the way. The River served as the backdrop for books by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

One Saturday **May 16, 2015** you will have a chance to fish one of the 14 American Heritage Rivers. Early reports suggest that the bass and bream are active and plentiful, so they should be ideal targets for 4 to 6-weight fly rods. Wilson's Bass Bully, Adams Cricket, Round Denny, and Bully's Bluegill Spider, along with small foam potters are ideal for this type of fishing.

As of this writing the details of the outing are still being finalized. Be on the lookout for an email containing all the particulars about the outing. You will need some manner of watercraft to participate in this outing be it paddle-craft or motor-craft. If you are without either, we will make sure you get paired up with someone who has a boat. If you need more information regarding the outing or if you want to make sure your name is on the list of members needing a ride, please contact Outings Chairman Jeff Bivins at outings@fcff.org.



"St johns map". Licensed under PD-US via Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:St_johns_map.jpg#/media/File:St_johns_map.jpg



May 2015 Tides Mayport, Florida (Bar Pilot Dock)

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		DATE	TIME	HEIGHT				
5/1/2015	Fri	1:21 AM	0.3	L	5/11/2015	Mon	8:51 AM	0.1	L	5/21/2015	Thu	5:35 PM	-0.1	L
5/1/2015	Fri	7:34 AM	4.4	H	5/11/2015	Mon	3:19 PM	4.5	H	5/22/2015	Fri	12:19 AM	4.9	H
5/1/2015	Fri	1:24 PM	0.2	L	5/11/2015	Mon	9:09 PM	0.3	L	5/22/2015	Fri	6:24 AM	-0.1	L
5/1/2015	Fri	8:01 PM	4.8	H	5/12/2015	Tue	3:45 AM	4.7	H	5/22/2015	Fri	12:47 PM	4.2	H
5/2/2015	Sat	2:02 AM	0.2	L	5/12/2015	Tue	9:51 AM	-0.1	L	5/22/2015	Fri	6:28 PM	0.2	L
5/2/2015	Sat	8:14 AM	4.4	H	5/12/2015	Tue	4:27 PM	4.7	H	5/23/2015	Sat	1:04 AM	4.7	H
5/2/2015	Sat	1:59 PM	0	L	5/12/2015	Tue	10:18 PM	0.1	L	5/23/2015	Sat	7:16 AM	0.2	L
5/2/2015	Sat	8:40 PM	4.9	H	5/13/2015	Wed	4:53 AM	4.7	H	5/23/2015	Sat	1:35 PM	4.1	H
5/3/2015	Sun	2:40 AM	0	L	5/13/2015	Wed	10:50 AM	-0.3	L	5/23/2015	Sat	7:25 PM	0.5	L
5/3/2015	Sun	8:54 AM	4.4	H	5/13/2015	Wed	5:32 PM	4.9	H	5/24/2015	Sun	1:50 AM	4.5	H
5/3/2015	Sun	2:32 PM	-0.1	L	5/13/2015	Wed	11:23 PM	-0.1	L	5/24/2015	Sun	8:09 AM	0.4	L
5/3/2015	Sun	9:17 PM	5	H	5/14/2015	Thu	5:57 AM	4.7	H	5/24/2015	Sun	2:25 PM	4.1	H
5/4/2015	Mon	3:16 AM	0	L	5/14/2015	Thu	11:46 AM	-0.5	L	5/24/2015	Sun	8:24 PM	0.7	L
5/4/2015	Mon	9:33 AM	4.3	H	5/14/2015	Thu	6:32 PM	5.2	H	5/25/2015	Mon	2:37 AM	4.4	H
5/4/2015	Mon	3:04 PM	-0.2	L	5/15/2015	Fri	12:25 AM	-0.4	L	5/25/2015	Mon	8:59 AM	0.5	L
5/4/2015	Mon	9:55 PM	5	H	5/15/2015	Fri	6:55 AM	4.7	H	5/25/2015	Mon	3:18 PM	4.2	H
5/5/2015	Tue	3:51 AM	-0.1	L	5/15/2015	Fri	12:41 PM	-0.8	L	5/25/2015	Mon	9:21 PM	0.9	L
5/5/2015	Tue	10:14 AM	4.3	H	5/15/2015	Fri	7:28 PM	5.4	H	5/26/2015	Tue	3:28 AM	4.3	H
5/5/2015	Tue	3:39 PM	-0.2	L	5/16/2015	Sat	1:23 AM	-0.6	L	5/26/2015	Tue	9:46 AM	0.6	L
5/5/2015	Tue	10:34 PM	5	H	5/16/2015	Sat	7:51 AM	4.7	H	5/26/2015	Tue	4:12 PM	4.2	H
5/6/2015	Wed	4:27 AM	0	L	5/16/2015	Sat	1:33 PM	-0.9	L	5/26/2015	Tue	10:15 PM	0.9	L
5/6/2015	Wed	10:55 AM	4.3	H	5/16/2015	Sat	8:20 PM	5.5	H	5/27/2015	Wed	4:21 AM	4.2	H
5/6/2015	Wed	4:17 PM	-0.2	L	5/17/2015	Sun	2:17 AM	-0.8	L	5/27/2015	Wed	10:31 AM	0.5	L
5/6/2015	Wed	11:14 PM	5	H	5/17/2015	Sun	8:43 AM	4.7	H	5/27/2015	Wed	5:05 PM	4.4	H
5/7/2015	Thu	5:08 AM	0	L	5/17/2015	Sun	2:23 PM	-1	L	5/27/2015	Wed	11:07 PM	0.8	L
5/7/2015	Thu	11:39 AM	4.3	H	5/17/2015	Sun	9:11 PM	5.6	H	5/28/2015	Thu	5:13 AM	4.1	H
5/7/2015	Thu	5:01 PM	-0.1	L	5/18/2015	Mon	3:07 AM	-0.9	L	5/28/2015	Thu	11:15 AM	0.5	L
5/7/2015	Thu	11:58 PM	5	H	5/18/2015	Mon	9:34 AM	4.6	H	5/28/2015	Thu	5:55 PM	4.5	H
5/8/2015	Fri	5:54 AM	0.1	L	5/18/2015	Mon	3:12 PM	-1	L	5/28/2015	Thu	11:57 PM	0.7	L
5/8/2015	Fri	12:26 PM	4.3	H	5/18/2015	Mon	10:00 PM	5.5	H	5/29/2015	Fri	6:03 AM	4.1	H
5/8/2015	Fri	5:52 PM	0.1	L	5/19/2015	Tue	3:56 AM	-0.8	L	5/29/2015	Fri	11:56 AM	0.3	L
5/9/2015	Sat	12:46 AM	4.9	H	5/19/2015	Tue	10:24 AM	4.5	H	5/29/2015	Fri	6:41 PM	4.7	H
5/9/2015	Sat	6:48 AM	0.2	L	5/19/2015	Tue	3:59 PM	-0.8	L	5/30/2015	Sat	12:44 AM	0.5	L
5/9/2015	Sat	1:18 PM	4.3	H	5/19/2015	Tue	10:48 PM	5.3	H	5/30/2015	Sat	6:50 AM	4.1	H
5/9/2015	Sat	6:50 PM	0.2	L	5/20/2015	Wed	4:44 AM	-0.6	L	5/30/2015	Sat	12:37 PM	0.2	L
5/10/2015	Sun	1:39 AM	4.9	H	5/20/2015	Wed	11:12 AM	4.4	H	5/30/2015	Sat	7:24 PM	4.8	H
5/10/2015	Sun	7:49 AM	0.2	L	5/20/2015	Wed	4:46 PM	-0.5	L	5/31/2015	Sun	1:28 AM	0.3	L
5/10/2015	Sun	2:15 PM	4.4	H	5/20/2015	Wed	11:34 PM	5.1	H	5/31/2015	Sun	7:35 AM	4.2	H
5/10/2015	Sun	7:58 PM	0.3	L	5/21/2015	Thu	5:33 AM	-0.4	L	5/31/2015	Sun	1:17 PM	0	L
5/11/2015	Mon	2:39 AM	4.8	H	5/21/2015	Thu	12:00 PM	4.3	H	5/31/2015	Sun	8:06 PM	4.9	H

