

Fly Fisher

First Coast

JUNE 2006

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



Past FCFF Prez Bud Larsen Displays A Striper Taken on This Year's Roanoke River Trip in Early May

MEETING & SPEAKER

FCFF Meeting: Monday, June 1, 7 p.m. -- Speaker: Capt. Larry Miniard - Our June speaker will be the legendary fishing and fly fishing Capt. Larry Miniard. In-shore, offshore, backcountry, Larry's fished and guided it all for 30 years. In the last 15 or so years, he's specialized in finding fish in the backcountry from Ponte Vedra through Palm Coast. Come pick his brain on how and where to find fish during the hot summer months, what flies to use, and what tactics are his favorites.

COMING EVENTS

June 22, 23, 24 Annual Steinhatchee Weekend Outing: Better reserve your room quick for the annual Steinhatchee weekend. Rooms fill up fast. Contact Mike McQuiston or George Durrance for more information. This may be the last time we'll be able to have an outing down there as condos are replacing hotels, boat ramps, and fish camps. If the wind cooperates, both the inshore redfishing and coastal trout fishing should be phenomenal. Rooms are available at Ideal Marina and Motel (352) 498-3877, Gulfstream and Marina (352)498-8088, and if you want to go high dollar, Steinhatchee Landing Resort (352) 498-5489. Rooms at both Ideal and Gulfstream are \$59, and the Gulfstream has 2 houses available that can accommodate larger groups, one at the hotel, one across the street. Both the Gulfstream and Ideal have boat slips, and the public ramp is next to the Gulfstream. Steinhatchee Landing has a dock suitable for boats, but they are located about a mile up the river, idle speed all the way. This is a great outing for spouses and kids, so bring the family.

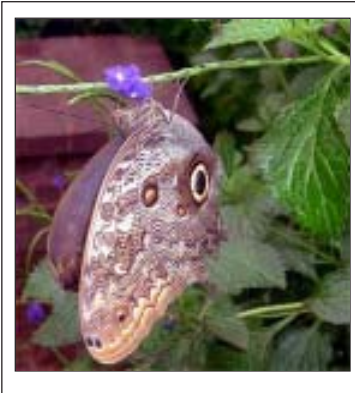


Fed Fly Fishers Fly Show at Callaway Gardens, GA

by David Lambert

This has gotten much less press from me than it deserves, but the annual get together of the **South Eastern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers** will be in **Callaway Gardens GA** next week, **June 9 & 10**. The Conclave hosts nearly 100 of the most innovative fly tyers and casting instructors you'll find on the East Coast. Each day is divided into shifts, with half the tyers and instructors working the morning shift, then half working the afternoon beat.

You'll see the legendary southern tyers here — tyers like Anthony Higgs, Don Reed, Oscar Filieu, Terry and Roxanne Wilson, Jon Cave, Jim Stewart, Dana Griffin, Bill Boyd and many others. Tyers tie at long tables and you can watch, learn, and chat with all of them. If you like to tie, this is the place for you. Saltwater, freshwater, warmwater, whatever the fly, whatever the millieu, you'll find it here.



As for casting instruction, many of the areas finest instructorts show here to teach and present casting workshops. Tom Jindra, head of the FFF Casting Board of Governors will be there, as will David Diaz, Jon Cave, Mac Brown, author of Casting Angles; David Lambert, Rhea Topping, Jimmy Harris, Carl Warmouth and others. The new Sage Casting Analyzer will be on hand to computerize your cast, as well. If you'd like to learn to teach casting or just want to improve your stroke, June's Southeastern CFFF Conclave is for you.

A little about Callaway Gardens: Callaway Gardens is a 13,000 acre non-profit resort and gardens in hills of western Georgia. The gardens are spectacular and fully in bloom this time of year. Callaway has offered a full flyfishing program for 12 years. The bream and bassing fishing is absolutely remarkable. Last year, a buddy of mine caught a 14-inch bluegill out of a float tube. Callaway Gardens is hugely bio-diverse, with acres of upland pine forests, lots of fishable water, golf and such, and dozens of acres of bright blooms and foliage.

Cost to participate in the Federation Activities, learn from the casters and tyers is a very reasonable \$5 per day, or \$15 for the weekend. A few of the casting seminars and workshops cost to participate — none more than \$40 per half-day.

Want to learn more? www.fffsec.org For more info, contact David Lambert, d.lambert@smartcasts.net

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The Ubiquitous Leech Fly

by Tom Regina, Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

Trout eat leeches - but probably not enough to become selective to them. However leech flies do catch lots of trout and your streamer fly box should always have some leech patterns in it. With that said, we can assume trout will be willing

to assault a leech pattern if the naturals are a part of the fishes' environment. Leeches are quite common in ponds and lakes. In rivers, streams, and creeks of moving water they will be most numerous in the gravel of riffles and runs with algae where aquatic insects they feed on are present.

Leeches look like worms. They swim, move, or travel with undulating movement. Leech dressings need not be exact imitations of the naturals and can be dressed as, and considered, searching patterns. In the opinion of many fly anglers and tiers, the best leech patterns are tied with marabou and/or rabbit fur hide strips. Marabou and narrow, supple rabbit strips impart realistic, fluid, undulating, swimming action to leech patterns - the actions necessary to attract trout.

Although leeches may grow to 3 or 4 inches long, most fly anglers and fly dressers use and tie leech patterns 1 - 2 inches long. The most common leech imitations colors are black, brown, tan, light and dark olive, purple, and wine red.

Leech imitations are most effective when fished deep. On still waters, cast your leech fly with a sinking or sink tip line. Let the fly sink slowly and deep. Be ready for a strike which may happen during this non-retrieve part of the retrieve. Make the retrieve with a creeping hand-twist as slow as you can. Then do it slower. When you feel a strike set the hook. If you feel a tap, drop the rod tip, make a two count and softly raise the rod tip. If you're not hooked-up the trout may turn and try again.

On moving waters of a river, stream, or creek, depending on the current, use a floating line with a long leader or a sink tip line with a short leader. Cast directly upstream or quartering upstream. Stay connected to the fly and allow it to sink and dead drift with the current. The limp marabou or rabbit fur will undulate and impart natural leech movement. When the fly starts to swing toward the end of the dead drift pick it up and recast. As an alternative allow the leech fly to swing fully downstream and retrieve it with a very slow hand-twist. Although a leech may not be able to swim upstream, this unnatural tactic can work in heavily stocked waters.



Materials

Hook: Mustad 9672, 3XL, size 6 ;
Head 3/16-inch black tungsten bead;
Thread: Gudebrod 6/0 brown BCS 98; **Underbody:** Tying thread; **Tail and wing:** Brown marabou blood quills, dark Angel Hair or Lite Bright (flash)

Tying Instructions

1. Debarb the hook. Place the bead head on the hook and mount the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot attach the thread to the hook shank directly in back of the bead head. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base back to the hook bend.

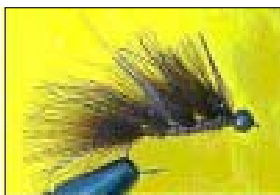


2. At the hook bend and on top of the hook tie in four strands of flash. Return the thread to the hook bend.

3. At the hook bend tie on the tail plume of marabou measured to extend one hook length beyond the back of the hook. Pull the butt end of the plume forward over the top of the hook shank and tie it down with quick spiral wraps of thread to the bead. Cut away the butt end of the tail plume. In quick spiral turns return the thread to the hook bend. Trim the tail flash even with the back of the tail marabou plume.



4. Wrap the thread forward 1/4 the hook shank length distance. On top of the middle of the tail marabou plume.



Tie in another marabou plume measured to extend to the middle of the tail marabou plume. Wrap the thread forward another 1/4 hook shank length distance and cut away the butt of this second plume.

5. Repeat the process by overlapping half of each previous flash/marabou tie on with successive ties of flash/marabou.

6. After tying the last marabou plume on at the back of the bead head tie off the thread wraps with several half hitch or whip finish wraps. Cut away the thread and cement the thread tie off wraps without getting cement on the marabou.

Clues - Don't have a leech in your fly box? Use a wooly buggler. Bronzedbacks are also known to gobble leeches.

Knot Knowing

by David Lambert

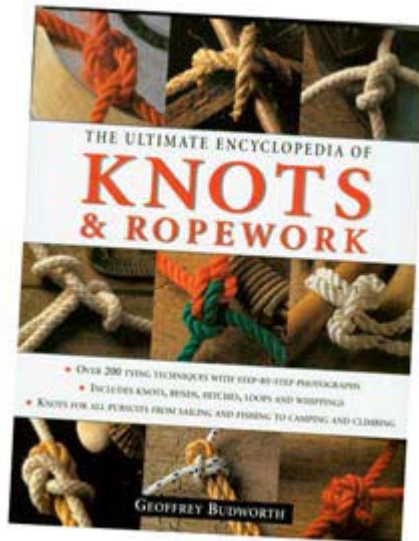
The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots and Ropework, Geoffrey Budworth, Anness Publishing Limited, New York, 2004, hard cover, 256 pp.

I cherish few things in this life, not fine single malts, nor exquisite fly rods, nor expensive cars. But I do love books; I always have. That's why I was distressed when I opened up my RV on the river a few weekends ago to find it had sprung a leak and made a science project out of a few of my better fly fishing reference books. Water wicked osmotically into the brilliant color pages. The flood catalyzed the rich printing inks and bound the pages together as efficiently as glue. They dried in the closed RV environment, in doing so, they produced a moldy saprophytic spore that stunk up the place and looked like so many layers of a bacon, lettuce, tomato sandwich.

One of the really good books I lost is Geoffrey Budworth's *The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots and Ropework*.

I like this book on a variety of levels. First, it's tightly crafted and it doesn't try to be anything other than a good knot book. Second, instead of the monotonous monochrome of black & white, this book gives me step-by-step instructional photos in the rich, 4-color inking. Third, it's an inclusive tome with

some 200 or so knots. I'll never use 190 of them, but that's not the point. They're there for me to fiddle with when I want. Fourth, it's a hardcover, full format printing, 12 x 9 1/4 inches. Fifth, it was cheap. I paid less than \$8 for it at Barnes and Noble, in their cutout sec-



tion -- but it's a bargain at 4 times the price. (Note: I called them in the context of this piece, but they were out of the book. You're mileage may vary.)

Knots and Ropework opens with a lesson in history: "Cave dwellers tied knots. . . knots pre-dated (perhaps by several millenia) the time when humankind learned to use fire and cultivate the soil, invented the wheel and harnessed the wind." You're being tutled here; there's more to learn about knot-ting history than you suspect.

Budworth examines cordage -- rope -- both of vegetable and manmade origins and walks the reader through types, spins, twists, and break-strengths of various ropes. There is a brief look at cordage care, including how to secure the ends of various rope and what tools work best for which method of maintenance

Quickly, though, we get to this book' raison d'etat -- "All knotting may be summed up under three main headings: Knots, Bends, and Hitches," Budworth writes. "A hitch attaches a line to a post, rail, spar, ring or even another rope; a bend joins two ropes together; a knot is anything other than a bend or a hitch (including stopper knots, binding knots, and loop knots. . ." This section might have titled *A Quick Peak at 20 Simple Knots*. Most of these are knots you'll recognize -- overhand bends, surgeon's loops, half hitches, etc.

Subsequent books sections deal with more intricate bends, hitches, and knots. It's here you'll discover dozens of useful knots for fishing and boating. Each joining is carefully photographed. Budworth lets the photos tell the story; thankfully, the text is sparse. Many of the 200 or so knots here have two pages of photos dedicated to them. At the outside of each knot is a legend that describes the knots uses -- Angling/Fishing, Boating/Sailing, Caving/Climbing, General Purpose, and Outdoor Pursuits.

The author breaks additional sections into titles like *Bindings and Loops*; Mats, Plaits, Rings, Slings, and Things; Glossary, and Index.

As the author says in the introduction: "Everyone should know a few knots. . . Nobody should be over-dependent on safety pins, super glue, zippers, and clips and other fastenings, when a suitable length of cord and the right combination of knots are cheaper."

As a side note: I did a search for this book at Amazon.com and found a few like-new versions for under \$10. Run, don't walk.



The Reviewer's Ruined Copy



Lott/Adams B & B Outing

Thanks to Bill and Ann Lott and John Adams for their exceptional outing and food recently. A very special thanks for service above and beyond goes to Ann, who had just cracked vertebra in a horse riding accident in Virginia the week before the outing -- A very special outing.

(Top left clockwise) Choate in from the river; Palazzini with a chain pickerel; the salad spread with hungry anglers in background; Lott's dock on the St. Johns River



Photos: Dave Kudley and Rick Palazzini

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Top Left: Capt. Larry Kennedy after seaking at Last month's meeting; Dick Michaelson demonstrates the 3-handed cast; Donn McKinnon with one of his many stripers caught in the Roanoke River outing; Rick Palazzini and Bill Scott (bottom right and left) show that Charlie Heston's old boat still holds plenty of good fishing luck.



Quote

"The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad." - A.K. Best



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