

First Coast Fly Fisher

March 2005

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



Welcome Mr. President

New FCFF President Chan Ritchie holds a beautiful fat rainbow sow from last month's Soque River trip.

MEETING & SPEAKER

Mon., Mar 7, 7 p.m. at Southpoint Marriot. **Speaker: Capt. Brian McGowan**
Topic: Fishing THE Flats by Kayak. Meet for **Casting w/David Lambert and Dick Michaelson** at 6 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

March 5 - Dead Lake Specs- Dead Lake is a small deep lake which connects to Cressent Lake.

April 23 - Mosquito Lagoon redbfish and seatrout- This is a unique opportunity to learn about a very diverse fishery just south of us.

May 21 - St Johns River bass and bream - John Adams and Bill Lott host this great outing on the St Johns river.

June 5-7 -- Annual Hiwassee Float Trip For Trout. See page 2 for more greater details

June 10-12 - Port St Lucie Snook -This is another great trip. We will spend the weekend with Capt.Marsha Foosaner. Reservations must be made early at the Caribbean Shores. Their phone number is (772) 334-4759. They fill up early so call NOW.

June 6 and 7, 2005

HIWASSEE TROUT FISHING

MOUNTAIN TROUT FISHING 101

by **Bud Larsen**

During the past 5 years that FCFF has scheduled the annual Hiwassee Riveris expedition, most of the participants have been experienced trout fishers. However, one of the guides emphatically pointed out that this trip was the perfect opportunity for beginning fly fishers to make their first attempts at trout fishing.

So, I have renamed the trip *Trout Fishing 101*. If you've wanted to get started fishing for rainbows and brown trout, then this is the expedition for you. This trip will answer all the questions that perplex a beginner.

Where do I go? The Hiwassee is listed by Trout Unlimited in the book 100 Best Trout Streams in North America. It is a TVA tail water river with a very high level of stream insects that provide late afternoon hatches for exciting dry fly casting.

When to go? We go down the river in McKenzie drift boats. They are launched up stream and we drift with the current in quiet solitude without any noisy motors. After the Memorial Day weekend TVA guarantees two generators will operate, which will release enough water for the boats to ease through the rocky shoals.

Each boat accommodates two fly fishers. The guides are most helpful. They will tell you where to cast and help you with the fundamentals of how to cast if needed. They will gaze at the water, then up at the sky and announce, "Let's try a #16 Blue Wing Olive." You will strain to even find the bug he has seen. The guide will anchor near a productive seam and if your first cast misses the mark, then you will have many more chances to cast at the same regularly rising trout. If your fingers are clumsy trying to tie a very small fly to a very this tippet, worry not. Your guide will do it.

Will I be able to wade and not fall down? Answer: All fishing is from the boat.

If you lack a 4, 5, or 6 wt rod the guide will provide suitable equipment if requested. A nearby fly shop is available for those who want to purchase "goodies".

The fishing is all catch and release. The river is large, 100yds across in the big shoals

area. It supports a population of trophy size, holdover fish. Realistically speaking these fish didn't get to be that big by acting stupid, so you have to get everything together right or be extraordinarily lucky to catch a trophy fish. On the second time I fished the Hiwassee I caught a 16" brown and an 18" rainbow. That day equaled the best I had previously done in 25 years fishing the southern Appalachians. On another trip I got too excited and pulled a #8 Isonychia Stimulator out of the mouth of a brown that looked as long as my leg. The fish are there! The scenery is magnificent! The Hiwassee has been designated a Tennessee Scenic River. It is undeveloped in the 6-mile stretch we fish.

The daily cost is \$300 per boat each day which can be split between two anglers. This fee includes lunch and drinks. We will be staying in a nearby large lodge with sleeping arrangements in an upstairs loft at a reasonable fee.

Southeastern Outfitters can provide a maximum of five boats. As of this writing two boats are committed for Jerry and Susan Bott, TL and me. These guides have a very good reputation and this is one of the best times to be on this river, so they will book up fast. In order to reserve a guide and boat you need to send me a half payment at your earliest convenience. This can be a very satisfying trip for both the novice and the expert.

We will travel up on Sunday the 5th and leave on Wednesday the 8th. If you want to extend your stay, you can wade fish the nearby Cherokee National Forest or the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, on your own or with guides from Southeastern Outfitters. If you have questions or need more details call me at work, 398-0055, or at home, 724-9187.

The outfitter, Dane Law, has an excellent web site at www.southeastenangers.com.

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The Soque and Raven

by Mike Head

Barbara and I made a camping trip to the Smokies and North Georgia recently. After setting up camp and spending a few hours fishing the Raven, we head south for a day on the Soque River, not far from Helen, GA.

Half way to Helen, here comes the rain. Me and the Soque and rain seem to go together.

Last year 7 inches fell while I tried to fish. This year, while getting licenses at Unicoi, 1.5 inches came down in 20 minute.

But tomorrow is the day I get to fish and the rain is supposed to quit – wrong.

I was up at 6 a.m. and it had been raining all night long. At 8 a.m. I started fishing -- regardless that the stream was muddy and up about 2



Donn McKinnon(L) and Dick Michaelson (R) with big Soque rainbows

feet. The rain quit two hours later. Maybe now it will clear up.

By 1 o'clock I have had 3 hits, but no hookups. I'd been watching fish rise for 2 hours and tried everything - nymphs, woolybuggers, caddis flies, and mayflies, but no takers.

Finally I remember a fly designed for the Smokies. I tie on a Brown's



Dick Michaelsons Fat Soque Bow Fell To The Unbeatable Combination of A Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) TiCr-X Rod and Jim Teeny Floating FlyLine.

Delight and cast it under a tree limb. Watching that chartreuse Mayfly drift in a back eddy, I watched the lightest take I have ever had. Setting the hook was one big surprise. My 5 weight bowed to near breaking point.

Thirty minutes later I landed a 9.5 to 10 pound rainbow. My Soque rain jinx is over, ended by my largest ever rainbow on a fly I tied. What a great feeling.

Back in the Smokies, the jinx was off. I went to fish where I sent Ray Waters to fish the first time I met him.

It must a been a trip for of large fish. Largest rainbow, brookie, brown, and brook trouts.

Never again will I catch that many different kind of large trout in one trip. Rain, freezing cold night and fish sponging, still a great trip.

Thanks to Bear Sutton for one Great Trout at Riverside Trout Stream.



The Forgotten Redfish Stew Photo

Last month your erstwhile, well-intended editor produced a succulent recipe for redfish stew provided by new member Bill Scott -- but left out this mouth-watering photo. Thanks Bill.

FCFF BANQUET WEEKEND A BIG SUCCESS BY ALL ACCOUNTS

by Chan Ritchie

If you missed this year's banquet, with its thousands of dollars of raffle and auction items, you missed you missed a really good time. The fellowship, raffle and silent auction were all first rate. Jon Cave gave us an an interesting and informative tour of the real fly-fishing world, a world that we often don't see in the fly fishing magazines.

His clinics were met with much praise for his teaching style. Like Buzz Purser said at the Saturday clinic, "This alone is worth the \$100 membership dues for the year." (He was referring to having the instruction of Cave, Lambert and Michaelson for free.)

I especially want to want to thank Julie Marshall for her hard work. The UNF facility was a great find and we hope to use it next year. Julie made the whole thing come together.

Other thanks and much gratitude goes out to Doug and Teresa for their seemingly unending charity and letting us use their great facility; Sherri Froehlich for her tireless work as our underappreciated treasurer; Dave Lambert and Dick Michaelson for helping Jon Cave teach for two days; and Donn McKinnon and Dick Choate for their efforts to make the event a huge success. I look forward to a great 2005. Chan

Banquet photos by David Kudley



CAVE'S CASTING CLINICS PROVED HELPFUL FOR ALL



SUPPORT YOUR FCFF GUIDES & INSTRUCTORS

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Photos by Donn McKinnon

2005 Speakers, Meeting Dates, and Outings

March 7- Captain Brian McGowan “Kayak and Flats Fishing”

April 4 - Janet Zimmerman “Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Preserve”

May 2 - Captain Marsha Foosaner “Giant Snook”

June 6 - Captain Brad Miller “Kayak Fly-Fishing Devil’s Elbow and Matanzas Inlet”

July 11- Captain John Kuminski “Fishing the Banana River No-motor Zone”

August 1- Kevin Fenn “Fishing the Tampa Area”

September 12 - Captains Randy Lanier, Tony Bozella, and Larry Miniard “Fishing Local Waters”

October 3 - Captain Frank Catino “Fishing the Mosquito Lagoon”

November 7 - Author, Norm Zeigler - Check for topic

December 5 - Truel Meyers and David Lambert “Techniques For Better Fly Casting”

March 5 - Dead Lake Specs — Dead Lake is a small deep lake which connects to Cressent Lake. It is known for its large number of specs or crappie during

springtime. There is a nice boat ramp and fish camp. You can also go after some bass in Cressent with a short run.

April 23 - Mosquito Lagoon redfish and seatrout - This is a unique opportunity to learn about a very diverse fishery just south of us. The outing will probably operate out of Edgewater Park. This is also a good place for those who like to kayak.

May 21 - St Johns River bass and bream - John Adams and Bill Lott host this great outing on the St Johns river. Bill and Ann will throw a lunch buffet at their house when you tie-up in the afternoon. This was a great outing last year. May is prime month for bream spawning. John is an expert at providing you the right fly to use.

June 10-12 - Port St Lucie Snook - This is another great trip. We will spend the weekend with Captain Marsha Foosaner who is one of FCFF’s favorite guides. She will show us the prime spots for fishing this area. Snook fishing under the dock lights can be outstanding with white flies. If you want to land a big snook during the day, you should probably bring along a spinning outfit and some Top Dog lures to accompany your snook fly collection just in case the fish are out of casting range. Reservations must be made early at the Caribbean Shores. Their phone number is (772) 334-4759. They fill up early so call NOW.

July 23-24 - Tomoka River Redfish - The Tomoke River offers access to fresh water bass and salt water redfish. You can head upriver (kayaks are great here) or out to the intracoastal waterway. We will camp at the nearby state park or you can drive down for the day.

August 27 - Nassau (Back Country) - Find out about this new outing from Outings Chair, Mike Head.

September 18 - Cedar Point redfish in the grass - This is your opportunity to go after this area’s favorite fly fishing sport - reds in the grass. Even if you don’t hook-up, you will be amazed at how they tail in the Spartina grass.

October 15 - Palm Valley redfish in the grass - This month we will chase reds in the grass in the Palm Valley to St Augustine area. This area has lots of great flats for 5.5 foot tides or better. You can start at the south end and work the tide north to get maximum scouting opportunities.

November 19 - Mill Cove redfish and seatrout - Mill Cove is normally a high tide fishery due to very shallow water at low tide. There are some limited shallow flats. It is an interesting fishery since tarpon and large jacks often hang-out there in the Summer.

December TBA, Cumberland Island seatrout - This is a unique opportunity to visit a place where few people go. Dr Jim McCully hosts this trip. If you have not been there, you should definitely take this great opportunity. Usually, several groups camp out at Crooked River State Park in Georgia and boat over on Saturday. If you don’t have boat transportation, there is a ferry at St Marys and one at Fernindina run by the Greyfield Inn.

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