

# First Coast Fly Fisher

January 2007

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



## Bob Clouser Day in North Florida

Nearly 50 members of FCFF and NFFF of Gainesville Attended the Annual Bob Clouser Day at Doug and Teresa Moore's M & M Dairy in December. Bob never fails to entertain and enlighten. Here he asks for a showing of left hands to determine the level of dyslexia in the crowd.

### MEETING & SPEAKER

**FCFF Meeting: Tuesday, January 9** -- Speaker Capt John Bottko of the Salty Feather Fly Shop on St. Johns Bluff Rd. John is a charter member of FCFF and a past president. His topic is 'Year 'Round Fishing In North Florida.' John was instrumental in popularizing saltwater fly fishing in North Florida.

*Also, free raffle \*Orvis T-3 Rod and Mach 4 Reel\* for members with dues paid by Jan. 8. See pg. 5*

### COMING EVENTS

**Saturday, Jan. 20 -- Bass and Bream Outing to Golden Pond.** Come join other FCFFers at one of the better phosphate ponds in the area -- Ernie Frey's Golden Pond, near Live Oak and White Springs. This is a small boat fishery, canoes and

small jon boats or kayak. More information at the January meeting or call Mike Head.

**Saturday, Jan. 27 -- FFF Florida Mini-Fly Show and Conclave, Dania Florida** -- Free admission, top fly casters and fly tyers. More information on page 5.

**Saturday and Sunday Feb 3 & 4** -- Annual FCFF Banquet Weekend. Free half day clinic for all dues paid members, 9:30 Saturday with International Fly Fisher Writer and Casting Instructor Jennifer Olsson.

**Saturday night, 6 p.m. FCFF Annual Banquet** at the UNF Conference Center. Lots of raffle items and silent auction goodies. Olsson is our guest speaker.

**Sunday Feb 4 Intensive Casting and Tying Day with Jennifer Olsson.** Contact David Lambert to sign up for this 16 person event. We still have some slots left, so contact David Lambert to sign up -- 904-241-4163 or email to [dlambert@onwatermedia.com](mailto:dlambert@onwatermedia.com). More about this on page 2

## Jennifer Olsson Here For FCFE Banquet Weekend

Free 1/2-Day Clinic Sat, Feb 3; Full Paid Clinic Sunday

Time again for that biggest of events in the world of First Coast Fly Fishers — **The FCFE Annual Banquet and Fly Fishing weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Feb 3 & 4.**

As most of you know, this is a weekend where FCFEers get to learn from some of the finest instructors and personalities in our sport. This year we are pleased to present **Jennifer Olsson**, a fly-fishing instructor and writer who splits her year between Montana and Sweden.

If you watch fly fishing TV, you've seen Jennifer and her husband Lars recently. Lars Olsson is a featured speaker at international trade shows and is a riverkeeper in Sweden for half-the year. He has written two books and numerous international articles on fly fishing.

Jennifer Olsson is a former fly casting instructor and licensed Montana and Yellowstone Park fishing guide. She has authored 2 books and written for a variety of fishing publications. She is a featured fly fishing commentator and fisher on CBS, NPR, and ESPN. Jennifer Olsson was nominated Big Sister of 1990 from 75,000



Jennifer Olsson

volunteers and was honored at the White House.

**Here's the weekend lineup:**

**Saturday, Feb 3, 9 a.m.** meet for a club-wide clinic with Jennifer. She will provide casting instruction,

rigging, tying advise – all with an international slant. The clinic ends around 1:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m.** Annual Banquet at UNF Conference Center. Lots of prizes, drawings, raffles, and a huge silent auction. If you attended last year, you know the banquet was a bang-up success; the food was great and the prizes were exceptional.

**Sunday, Feb 4, 9:30 a.m.:** 16 lucky FCFEers join Jennifer Olsson for an exciting, informative day of casting, tying, and rigging, all with an eye toward broadening our knowledge of how fishing is undertaken throughout the world. Cost is \$50 per person. They'll likely still be a couple of openings at the January meeting. Contact David Lambert to sign up, [dlambert@onwatermedia.com](mailto:dlambert@onwatermedia.com); or call 241-4163.

Homer Bliss is the banquet chair again this year. Look for your banquet sign-up sheet in the very near future. Homer is offering an *early banquet registration raffle*, so get your tickets quickly. He'll be sending out banquet signups in the very near future.



Photos of Clouser Day by Dave Kudley

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# The Clouser Minnow

*The Story Behind The Most Successful Fly Pattern in Modern History*

Reviewed by Jason Sheasley

***Clouser's Flies: Tying & Fishing the Fly Patterns of Bob Clouser***

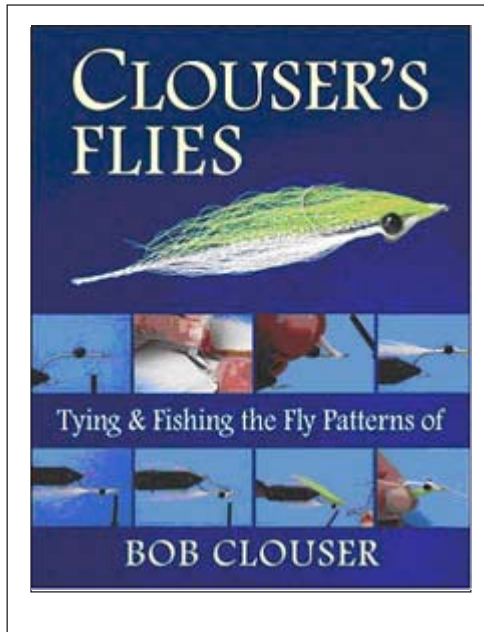
Published By Stackpole Books  
January 2006; 184 Pages; ISBN  
0811701484

My first fly-caught saltwater fish was a 36-inch red drum taken just north of the Guana Dam. Up to that point, it was the largest fish I had ever caught fly fishing. I attribute my anomalous success to a whole lot of luck and a chartreuse and white Clouser Deep Minnow. Prior to this introduction to saltwater fly fishing, I used the Clouser Minnow, to catch various species of freshwater fish in my home state of Pennsylvania. It is little wonder that this pattern heralded my entry into the world of saltwater fly fishing.

The Clouser Deep Minnow is unquestionably the most popular fly pattern to have been developed in the last two decades. In a 1989 article in *Fly Fisherman*, Lefty Kreh introduced the world to the Clouser Deep Minnow. Since that time both the fly and its inventor have become bellwethers for fly fishing. Lefty has reportedly caught more than eight-six species of fish using this pattern. Fly fishermen the world over have attested to the versatility and effectiveness of the Clouser Deep Minnow.

Bob Clouser's contributions to fly tying do not begin or end with the minnow pattern that bears his name. *Clouser's Flies* contains recipes for seventeen proven fly patterns that Bob has invented over the last twenty years. The majority of the flies were first designed to target smallmouth bass on Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River. However, more than two-thirds of the flies are also proven saltwater patterns. The seventeen fly patterns are divided into three groups – Baitfish (the Clouser Minnow and Variations), Subsurface Freshwater Foods, and Surface Flies. An entire chapter is dedicated to each of the fly pattern beginning with the Clouser Deep Minnow.

Each chapter begins with a narrative on the origins of the fly. The narrative provides the reader with glimpse into the thought process behind the fly's development as well as tips on how to tie and fish the fly. The chapters conclude with step-by-step



instructions on how to tie each fly. The instructions are accompanied by detailed photographs by Jay Nichols of each step.

The book contains chapters for such Clouser creations as the Half and Half, the Foxee Redd Minnow, Floating Minnow, Suspender and EZ Popper. It all begins with a chapter on the Original Clouser Deep Minnow. In this chapter, the reader will learn of the Minnow's humble beginnings, the correct way to tie the pattern, and the color combinations that work best in saltwater.

The popularity of the Clouser Deep Minnow may be attributed to the fact that it is simple to tie, readily adaptable to the prevailing fishing conditions and easy to fish. It is safe to say that most neophyte fly tiers cut their teeth on tying two fly patterns – the Woolly Buzzer and the Clouser Deep Minnow. Like the Woolly Buzzer, the Clouser pattern has transcended the realm of a fly pattern to become a fly tying style. Each of the patterns summarized in the book, share in the simplicity and versatility of the Clouser Deep Minnow.

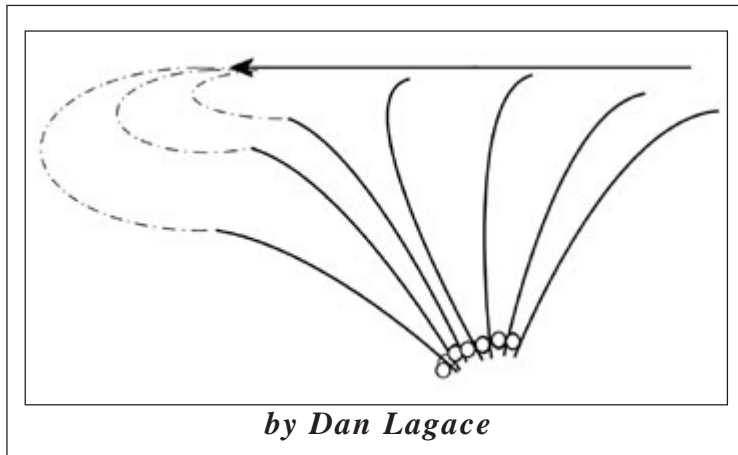
Reading *Clouser's Flies* I couldn't help but think about the Bob's recent visit with the Club in early December 2006. Glancing through the recipes I was reminded of the jokes and anecdotes Bob told as he demonstrated how to tie his various patterns. In a time when complicated fly patterns tend to attract more fishermen than fish, it is refreshing to see a book that focuses on proven, simple to tie fly patterns. The patterns in this book are modest and unassuming, much like their inventor. However, each has a record or producing fish. What is the use of a difficult-to-tie pattern if it doesn't catch fish? After reading the book, I tied and fished several of Bob's other patterns with similar success as the Deep Minnow.

*Clouser Flies* is more than just a book on tying a few fly patterns. Bob Clouser has been tying flies since the age of fourteen. After 50-odd years as a fly fisherman, Bob has gained a wealth of knowledge and wisdom both on and off the water. His insights shine through on each page of the book. Regardless of whether you buy or tie your Clouser Deep Minnows, there is much to be learned from these pages.

# Short Distance Casting

(This article adopted from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club newsletter.)

Such emphasis is placed on long-distance casting in saltwater "fly fishing that short-distance casting skills are often overlooked.



Try it yourself. Begin with just a foot or so of line past the tip of the rod. Try to form a moderately tight loop with the first back cast. Most casters overpower this first casting stroke resulting in a wide open loop, the reason being that the excessive power destroys any chance for a crisp, positive

I have cast to tailing fish within less than 20 feet often enough to have caused me to practice short-distance casting. I began this practice with just about one foot of line past the rod tip, trying to form a loop in the tapered leader alone. This is more difficult than it seems.

I have found that it is best to form a moderately tight loop with short amounts of line past the tip since overly tight loops will not allow the leader to straighten. The leader will crash into itself if the loop is too tight. Experiment with loop sizes to determine which best allows the leader to straighten completely.

stop. Back off a bit and impart only enough power to make the leader, straighten on the first back cast.

Replicate that good, moderately tight first-cast loop on the forward false cast. Again, keep the power and speed to a minimum and concentrate on achieving a positive stop of the fly rod. Use wrist break during the casting stroke to regulate the size of the loop. The objective of this practice is to straighten the nine-foot leader completely, allowing a cast of about 15 feet with just the leader and about a foot of line past the tip of the rod.

## Tying The Puglisi Baitfish Fly

(As tied by Nick Angelo, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing)

### Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S #6 stinger  
Thread: Tan flat waxed nylon  
Flash: pearl krystal flash  
Tail: olive EP fibers  
Body: olive and tan EP fibers, black and red craft markers  
Eyes: small plastic EP eyes

### Tying Instructions

- 1) Attach thread at the bend of the hook and tie in a 1 inch piece of olive EP fibers
- 2) Tie in 3 strands of doubled flash.
- 3) Tie in another 1 inch piece of olive EP fibers.
- 4) Invert the hook and tie in a 1 inch piece of tan EP fibers on the bottom of the hook shank.
- 5) Repeat steps 3 and 4 2 more times, building up a bushy body to the eye of the hook.
- 6) Whip finish and cement the thread.



- 7) Trim the fibers to resemble a small baitfish.
- 8) Using the black marker, bar the sides of the fly.
- 9) Using the red marker, stamp the fly near the eye to resemble a bit of gill flare.
- 10) Cut the peg from the plastic eyes and attach them on the fly using silicone based glue, such as Goop

# FREE Raffle For Orvis T-3, Mach 4

*Must Have Dues Paid By January 8 To Get Ticket!!*



Top of the Line Orvis T-3 Rod and Mach Large Arbor Reel -- Retail Value: \$950

## **T-3 8 Weight, 5 oz., 4 -piece, Tip Flex 9.5**

A high octane eight-weight that casts further and more accurately than any other eight-weight available. A crisp butt and sensitive tip creates high line speed and tight loops for long casts in any condition. T3 technology and innovative tapers creates a rod so well balanced that the caster can feel the line load at any range. The result is perfect timing, longer casts, better accuracy and the ability to feel the slightest takes with 80 feet of line on the water. A four-piece travel rod that is as easy to take to the tropics as it is the local bass pond. Perfect for bass, bonefish, redfish, stripers, snook and baby tarpon.

### **Features include:**

- Super-high modulus graphite and thermoplastic-enriched, thermoset resin/scrim matrix: more powerful, more durable.
- Three coats of finish with a final UV blocking coat.
- Silicon-carbide-lined stripping, titanium carbide snake guides for lowest possible coefficient of friction.
- Protective aluminum rod tube.
- 25-Year Guarantee to repair or replace no matter the reason.

## **Mach 4 Large Arbor Fly Fly Fishing Reels**

Mach fly fishing reels combine light weight, large backing capacity, and drag power more effectively at a better price than any fly reel on the market.

- Machined design is 35% lighter than the Orvis Vortex for all-day casting comfort and fly rod/reel system balance.
- Large arbor design provides twice the backing capacity as Orvis Battenkill Large Arbor V with nearly the same fly line retrieval rate, 11" per revolution. Standard arbor fly reels on average retrieve only 6" of fly line per revolution.
- Eight separate stainless steel to Broflon® drag surfaces provide smooth, tippet-protecting start-up, tremendous stopping power.
- Large drag knob features 630° indexed adjustment range that is numbered for reference so switching from fighting disc drag to stripping drag and back again is quick and easy.
- No tools needed to easily swap spools to load a different line for changing fly angling conditions.
- Hard anodized finish is embedded into the 6262-T6 aerospace-grade aluminum for durability.
- 100% corrosion-proof fly reel is easy to disassemble and clean.
- Easily switched from right- to left-hand retrieve.
- For fly-line weights 6-9 weight

**Note: Raffle tickets will be issued to FCFE members in good standing who have paid their dues on or before the January 8, 2007 meeting. You do not have to be present to win.**



# Federation of Fly Fishers Starts New Florida Council

*Free Fly Show Jan. 27 To Feature Casting and Tying Greats*

In the past year Florida members of the Federation of Fly Fishers voted to succeed from the South Eastern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) and form a new council, The Florida Council of the FFF. "We believe he new Florida Council will be able to far better represent the 1000s of flyfishers, both fresh and saltwater, across the state," said new Council president Capt. Pete Greenan of Boca Grande.

In the last year, FFF-Florida increased its voting membership by 25%, added three new clubs, and put \$50,000 into the bettering the Florida environment. "We've established partnerships with manufacturers to support fly tying work-shops and fly casting clinics. We have brought the Casting Instructor Certification process to two Florida events and are managing the first Florida Conclave," Greenan said.

FFF-Florida will work with sister organizations like Coastal Conservation Association, Bassmasters and Trout Unlimited to help protect the rights of fly fishers and the fishing environment of Florida.

The first FFF-Florida Fly Show and Conclave will be held Saturday, January 27 in Dania, FL, at the International

Game Fish Association (IGFA) museum. The event is free to the public. Event hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Below is a partial program list of casting instructors, fly tyers, and event speakers:

### ***Program list for New FFF-Florida Mini-Conclave and Flyfishing Show***

**Casting programs** – 1 hr each starting at 11 am. Joan Wulff; Jon Cave – founder of FFF Casting Program; Dusty Sprague – FFF Casting Board of Governors; Gordy Hill – FFF Casting Board of Governors; Dan Lagace – Nationally Recognized for Teaching Either Handed Casting

**Fishing Presentations** -- Jon Cave – The Lagoon; Steve Huff - permit; Alan Zamemba/Marty Arostegui – fresh water/peacock bass; Dr. Aaron Adams – Author, the Fisherman's Coast; Rick Grasset – southwest Florida

**Celebrity Fly Tyers** -- Jim Stewart – hair flies; John Sweeny – offshore flies; Les Fulcher – exotic patterns; Jack Neely – foam spiders plus; Steve Gibson – salt water flies; Oscar Felio (sp) – salt water and fresh water flies; Tom Logan – trout flies; Ginger Allen; Jim Brady.

Contact Capt. Pete Greenan for further information [captpete@floridaflyfishing.com](mailto:captpete@floridaflyfishing.com)

**Clouser Dave As Seen By Dave Kudley's Nikon**





Woody Huband With A Fine Black Bass Last Month

**Support The Guides & Shops Who Support First Coast Fly Fishers**

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 captdavidborries@comcast.net  
 904/708-8915

**Capt John Bottko**  
 feather2@ix.netcom.com  
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**Capt Tony Bozzella**  
 bozzella@aol.com  
 904/651-0182

**Capt Vaughn Cochran**  
 blackflyjax@bellsouth.net  
 904/997-2220

**Master Casting Instructor  
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 dlambert@onwatermedia.com  
 241-4163

**Capt. Brian McGowan**  
 Strike Zone Fishing  
 904/641-2433

**Capt. Larry Miniard**  
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 mmdairy@aol.com  
 757-3323; 545-0602 Cell

**Tying Instr. Don Reed**  
 donreed@saltwaterflytyers.com  
 904/535-6929

**Stockton Safaris Inc  
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 904/316-2143

**Avid Angler**  
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 St. Augustine, FL 32084  
 904-824-8322

**Black Fly Outfitters**  
 11 AVILES ST. ST. AUGUSTINE  
 904.829.6481

**Salty Feather**  
 ST JOHNS BLUFF RD, JACKSONVILLE,  
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 WWW.SALTYFEATHER.COM

**Strike Zone Fishing**  
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