

Fly Fisher

First Coast

July 2007

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



Redfish and Electric Kwan Fly
photo: Rich Santos

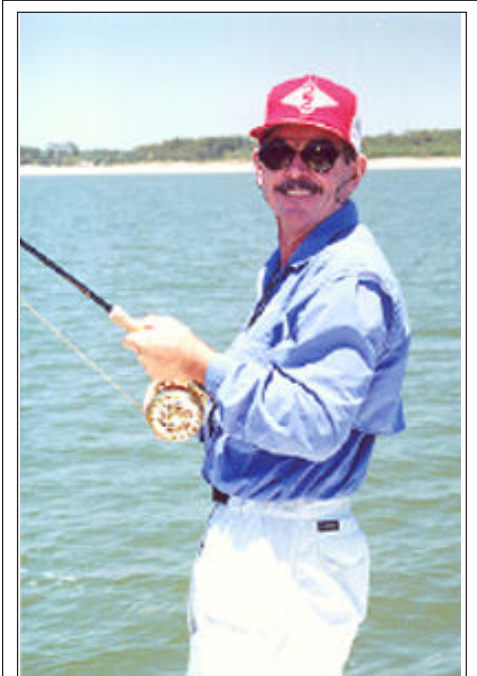
MEETING & SPEAKER

Monday, July 9 FCFF meeting. Speaker: Captain's Forum with Capts. Larry Miniard, Randy Lanier, John Bottko, David Borries, and Tony Bozzella. Casting at 6. Board meets at 6. Meeting at 7. Please post your questions to the Club Forum. Printouts of questions will be available at the meeting.

COMING EVENTS

July 14 New Moon; July 30 Full Moon
Devil's Elbow Outing Saturday, July 7. Come join us and fish Devil's Elbow and the SR 206 Bridge. Prez Jason Sheasley has reserved a campsite at Princes Place Preserve on Saturday nite. Contact him for more info. See article on page. 2
Monday, Aug. 6 -- FCFF meeting. Speaker: Tom Mitzlaff, founder/designer of Mitzi Skiff boats
Saturday, Sunday Aug. 25 & 26 -- August Outing -- Two days of Nassau Sound reds in the Surf. More information at the July meeting.
Saturday, Sept. 29 -- Reds in the Grass first outing. Launch at Cedar Point. More information at July Meeting.

FL Wildlife Federation Awards Doug Moore Outdoorsman of year 2007



Capt. Doug Moore
FWF's 'Outdoorsman of Year'

Florida Wildlife Federation this year has chosen past FCFF president Doug Moore to receive their prestigious Francis Taylor Award for Outdoorsman of the Year. The award is presented each year to state's outstanding conservationist and "advocate of what Florida was," said Preston Robertson, vice president and general counsel of the FWF. "Doug is recognized for voluntarily practicing conservation and for protecting flatwoods habitat, the critters that live there and much more."

Doug was president of M&M Dairies and currently runs a utilities company, is chairman of a metal fabrication company and chairman of TM Livestock, Inc., and chairman of the Duval Soil & Water Board. He's a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, president of the South Prong Hunting Club and a life member of the Jacksonville Gun Club.

A USCG licensed captain, he is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Rifle Association and the United Sportsmen of Florida.

Moore is a certified youth huntmaster with Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and volunteers his time, his experience, and his property to teach children the importance of the outdoors - heading up youth hunts and programs on game and timber management.

He also takes college extension courses from home from both Florida and Clemson University, where he holds wildlife and forestry degrees.

Congratulations Doug. We're better for having guys like you in the club.

**FCFF To Print
2008
Flyfishing
Calendar.
Submit Best Out-
doors/Fly Fishing
Photos
To FCFF Forum
Calendar Page.**

Details and rules on page 3

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July Outing - Devil's Elbow and SR 206 Bridge

by Woody Huband, VP/ Outings

Our July outing is set for Saturday, July 7 at Devil's Elbow and the SR 206 bridge area in St Augustine. We should have a low tide at 10:00-10:30 a.m. depending on where you fish. If you are not familiar with the area, it is along the Intracoastal just north of the 206 bridge, and there are enough oyster mounds for everyone. The water clarity is much better than in the St Johns and adjacent creeks.

Jason Sheasley has procured a campsite for Saturday night in the Princes Place Preserve. The site number is Moody Site 2 for campers after the outing.

Contact Jason
pgflyfisher@gmail.com

Launch at Butler Park in Butler Beach. ; see web addresses below. or at the Devils Elbow Fish Camp and Cottages (\$5 fee) <<http://staugustine.com/directory/visit/1439047.shtml>>

Kayaks and canoes can launch at the ramps, or at the SW quadrant of the SR 206 bridge. Another good launch is at Coastal Outdoor Center <http://www.coastaloutdoorcenter.com/> at the SE quadrant of the bridge. Brad has been a speaker at one of our meetings and knows the area well. Ask him for current fishing info.

After fishing we will eat at South Beach Grill <http://www.southbeachgrill.net/> at 1:00 or when you get there.

Rich Santos and Troy James fished just south of the area near Matanzas last week and caught some flounder, ladyfish, and shark. They said the water was very warm.

Burt Froehlich fished the Intracoastal near the area last week and caught some nice redfish. See the article on page 5 for both stories and photos.

If anyone needs to pair up with boat owner or a boat owner needs a crew, please respond to me at this email address or call Woody Huband at 904-994-9663.



Vp Outing Woody Huband with Summer Seatrout

FCFF 2008 Flyfishing Calendar Submission Info

1. Members may submit up to 4 digital photographs.
2. Photos must be unpublished
3. The photo must be unpublished. We may want to consider extending this to include photos published in the newsletter.
4. The photos should be fly-fishing related. Any fish must be fly caught.
5. Photos of fresh or saltwater fly fishing will be accepted.
6. No text should be added or super imposed on to the photo.
7. The photos must be taken by a Club member.
8. Members should submit a brief description of the photo, date (month and year) the photo was taken, and the location of the photo.
9. Photos should be posted to the FCFF Forum or they can be emailed to me at pgflyfisher@gmail.com. I will post them to the forum.
10. Club members will vote for the 12 best photos.
11. Members will have until November 2007 to submit their best photos. The date will be decided later.
12. All photos submitted to the forum are final. Once a photo is submitted, the corresponding member can not replace it with another photo.
13. All photos must be either jpeg or tif images with a minimum resolution of 4 mega pixels. Winners will be asked to furnish full size images for the calendar via email or on CD.

Smallies of the French Broad River

'No one fishing the river except you'

Try to imagine, if you can, a rolling, frolicking river, harboring feisty smallmouth bass from bank to bank, and no one fishing the river except you.

And while you're at it, throw in the fact that this river passes through a major urban area of around 100,000 people. We're not referring here to some remote Canadian river but rather to the French Broad of western North Carolina.

We recently took a guided float down the French Broad, putting in a bit north of Asheville, the major city in the western part of the state. Andrew, our guide, had us into fish within a few minutes of launching the inflatable raft that was to be our casting platform for the rest of the day. The bass hung in close to the banks in quieter pools and pockets. Casts had to be made within inches of the bank for the best responses. Over the course of the 7 mile float we boated and released around 30 fish. They ranged from 1-3 pounds and fought like pit bulls. The river-toughened smallmouth puts the farm pond largemouth to shame when it comes to sheer tenacity and rod arching power.

Booking a guide is the only way to fly fish the section of the river we were to float. Public access points are few and safe wading spots even rarer. You could put onto the river in a kayak or perhaps a canoe, but most of your time will be spent trying to control your boat. This is a relatively fast river with lots of submerged and emergent rocks. Take your eye off what lies ahead, and you'll be into trouble. It's infinitely more pleasurable to have a guide work the oars and show you where to cast. Your time is spent doing what you came to do – cast to and play rambunctious smallies.

There may be smallmouths somewhere else that are finicky about fly patterns, but not the ones we encoun-



Dana Griffin with A Smallmouth Bass on Recent Trip To NC's French Broad river

by Jodi Slapcinsky and Dana Griffin III

tered. The guide suggested standard cork-bodied poppers – and they worked! Over the course of the day there seemed to be a slight shift in color preference. We started out using black poppers but, as the day wore on, moved to white or chartreuse. Morning saw more action than the afternoon, but we were into fish right up to 6 PM when the pullout spot appeared.

The French Broad moves north and west after heading up in the hills around Rosman. It crosses the spine of the Appalachians (which means the river is probably older than the mountains, and these mountains are very, very old!) and begins a rapid descent into Tennessee, joining the Holston at Knoxville. Along the way it picks up the contributions of the Nolichucky, the Ivy, the Pigeon and Little Pigeon. Its confluence with the Holston forms the beginning of the Tennessee River. Some of this ancient history might stir in the back of the mind of the fly fisher as she floats these storied waters, but scrappy bass have a focusing effect that easily trumps river history. Save it for when you're back at the lodge. Just remember you've been on waters that were flowing through the hills of the southeast since before there were smallmouth bass – or dinosaurs for that matter! Kind of neat, eh?

We can recommend Asheville Drifters, the guide service we used for our day trip on the river. Reservations and rates can be obtained by phoning (828) 215-7379. Their web site is located at: www.ashevilldrifters.com.

(Ed note: Jodi Slapcinsky is a eco-biologist for The Nature Conservancy in Gainesville and president of North Florida Fly Fishers. Dana Griffin is a retired professor of botany from U of F. This article is adapted from our sister club, North Florida Fly Fishers of Gainesville.

Bassin' Rife With History and Technique

Bassin' with a Fly Rod

By Jack Ellis

The Lyons Press

ISBN 1585745839

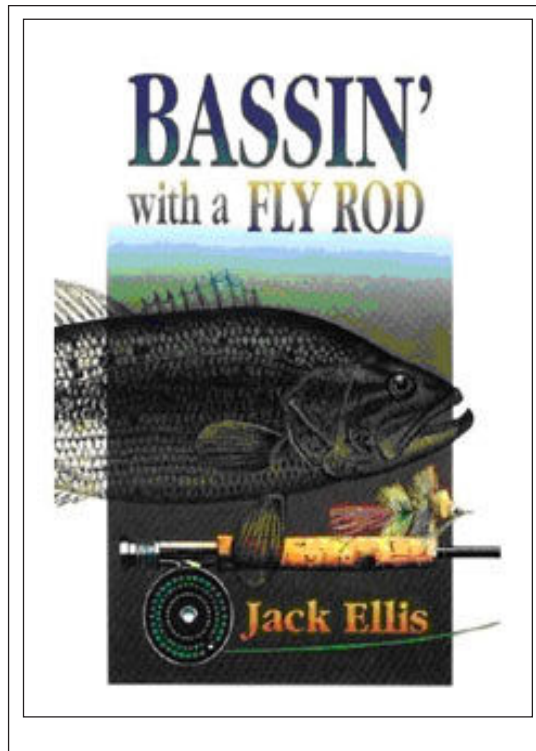
Reviewed By Jason C. Sheasley

Over 20 million people reportedly fish for bass every year. Yet nowadays only a small percentage of those people target bass with a fly rod. That was not the case in the 1930s or earlier. It's said Teddy Roosevelt's uncle, Robert Roosevelt, introduced the sport of bass fishing to the America public. Back then, the fly rod was the preferred (if not the only) method for pursuing bass.

When the modern spinning reel was perfected in the late 1940s by the Mitchell Reel Company bass fishing with a fly rod began to wane. Today, bass fishing has become as much of a spectator sport as it is a participant sport. Saturday morning programming on ESPN is almost exclusively dedicated to BASS Master tournaments and programs dedicated to bass fishing techniques using "conventional tackle" and hardware.

Bass fishing has a rich and diverse history. In *Bassin' with a Fly Rod* Jack Ellis returns to bass fishing's earliest roots to dust off and revitalize long forgotten techniques by the sport's pioneers, like James Henshall, Ray Bergman and Joe Messinger. He explores the origins of the schism between trout fishing and bass fishing. And why trout fishermen have a dim view of bass fishermen or vice versa. *Bassin' with a Fly Rod* is unique in the sense that it combines historical accounts with personal narratives to create an instructional book on bass fishing.

Ellis takes time to discuss not only the habitat of bass; but, what and how they eat. Understanding one's quarry is the key to success. Ellis understands this has been able to overcome the painful truth that "conventional tackle" is more efficient for bass than a fly rod. On any given day, a fisherman with a bait caster and a plastic worm will out fish a fly caster. Why is that? According to Ellis this has as much to do with the fish as the fishing method. He goes on to propose methods for leveling the playing field between spin fishermen and fly



fishermen. Some his fly fishing methods are a little unorthodox. As such, the fly-fishing purist may be a little offended by his techniques. Since reading this book, I have applied some of his methods and found them to be quite effective.

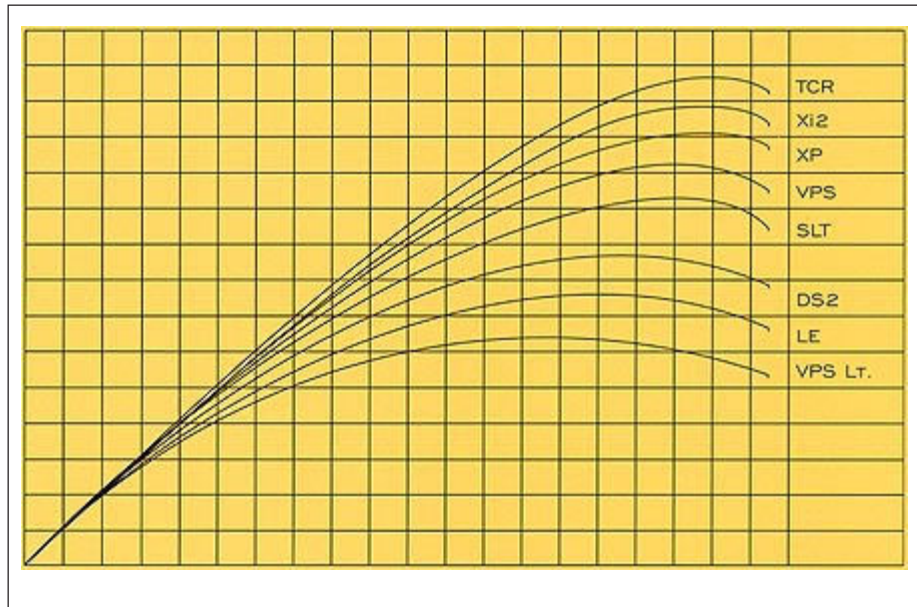
Bassin' with a Fly Rod concludes with a look at the accoutrements for successful bass fishing with a fly rod. Ellis takes a practical approach to the necessities for successfully targeting bass with a fly rod. He provides a number of good tips regarding rods, leaders, flies and boats. This advice is based on years of experience on the water.

It is a matter of geography that determines whether our home waters are trout streams or salt marshes. However, practically everyone has access to a "bass hole." Ellis provides a number of useful tips and recommendations for successful bass fishing with a fly rod. He also provides an informative look at the history of bass fishing, and in particular bass with a fly rod, in North America. *Bassin' with a Fly Rod* is a good choice for either the neophyte or seasoned bass fly rodder looking to improve their skills.



**North Florida Fly Fishers' President
Jodi Slapcinsky With A French Broad Smallie**

How Rod Action Can Affect Your Cast



by Bruce Richards

All fly rods are not born equal. Most of the fly rods built today cast very well, but differences in flex or action can have a big impact on how they cast. Understanding the differences in these basic rod actions and what you need to do to adjust your casting stroke to make them cast well, can make you more effective with any rod.

Over the years I've heard many times that a beginner should start casting with a soft, slow, forgiving rod. In reality, very soft, flexible rods can be difficult to cast, especially for beginners. These rods are prone to throwing tailing loops because they are easy to overload, causing the rod tip to travel in a downward, arcing path. To prevent this from happening takes a very smooth casting stroke, something that takes most anglers some time to master. A beginner may be doing everything almost right but still get consistently tailing loops that can be very frustrating, all because of the slow action of their rod. Casting a lighter line can help some, but a long, smooth stroke is still necessary.

At the other extreme are stiff, fast action rods. These rods are very tailing loop resistant, but there are other issues that can make them difficult to cast, especially for inexperienced casters. Because these rods don't load or bend much when casting at normal distances the angler doesn't have the feeling of direct contact with the line. This vague feeling can make it difficult to determine the timing of the cast. Since there is little rod load at short to medium distances it is often necessary to cast harder with a stiff

rod which often results in wider, inefficient loops if the stroke isn't just right.

Fast rods are excellent for long distance casts. They are made to work well when carrying longer than normal lengths of line in the air; this loads them properly. If an angler doesn't want to cast long, or isn't capable, fast rods can be very frustrating to use. Fortunately there is an easy fix to this problem. Using a line one or even two sizes heavier than the rod is rated for supplies the load that the rod requires to work well, but at a shorter distance.

As you have probably guessed, a rod with an action somewhere between very slow and very fast is right for most anglers in most applications. Fortunately, most of the popular rods made today fall into this medium action category. They are stiff enough to cast non-tailing loops when cast reasonably well at normal fishing distances. They are soft enough to load well at the same distances, while giving the angler good feel of the line. While maybe not the ultimate short distance spring creek rod, or long distance cannon, medium action rods handle most day to day fishing casts with ease, without major casting stroke adjustments.

(Ed. Note: This article is reprinted from *The Loop*, the FFF Casting Instructor's Newsletter. It originally appeared in *Fly Fish America*. Bruce Richards is the principal fly line designer for Scientific Anglers/3M, a master casting instructor, and, with Noel Perkins, designed what has become known as the Sage Casting Analyzer.)



Rainy Day in Stuart w/ Kayak in Distance



Rainy Day in Clapboard w/ Kayak Up Close



2000 HP Confiscated Drug Boat



Rick Palazzini
w/ Snook



Dick Morris (right) wins Orvis Rod and Reel Combo



Burt Froehlich w/ 27" red

Fishing Matanzas Last Week

by Rich Santos

I was sitting around home relaxing after a fishing trip down south that got cut short due the bad weather. Out of the blue Troy James called around 1pm and invited me to fish a new area that I had never been to. The wife said I should go since I had planned on fishing all weekend anyway.

That was enough to get me going especially the idea of seeing a new spot. So I met Troy at the launch spot. When I got out of the truck it was around the last hour or 2 of the out going tide. The was wind blowing east about 10-12 knots with a warm balmy 90 degrees. I prepared for about a 5- hour trip that we ended up covering nearly 5 miles. We looked hard for some active fish. Not much was going on.

There were lots of stingray and mullet hiding in the shallows. The water was bathtub hot, say around 85 degrees. We continued on and blind cast through some oyster bar cuts and found some flounder. Then we separated for awhile to cover more ground and try different spots. I came across a real shallow mud flat about 100' wide between some oysters. I saw a good push that I knew was a Red. I cast my fly in front of him and he ate it without hesitation. He gave me 3 good short runs and tired out pretty quickly, very likely because there is so little oxygen in hot water and the fish deplete their internal stores quickly during a fight.

Troy caught up with me to see the fish and started fishing the area. He spotted about a 4 ft. shark and cast his fly at him. The shark quickly ate it and was on for a few seconds and cut off. We moved on and found a deeper creek We caught some ladyfish and flounder. Had a nice afternoon fishing with Troy!



Troy James W/ Matanzas SummerFlounder

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