

First Coast Fly Fisher

May 2007

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



Scott Sheridan, 1949 -2007
(see story on page 2)

May Meeting Sun., May 6 with D.L. Goddard Tying/Fishing Free Clinic

Don't miss out on one of America's most accomplished fly tyers and teachers, D.L. Goddard. This is an informal, up-close-and-personal opportunity to learn from someone who has spent years honing his craft and sharing his methods. Sun, May 6 M & M Dairy, 10 a.m.

Here's what he has in store for you!

- Fly tying tools, which ones and why
- Selecting materials, what to look for
- Vises and table setups
- Threads and mono threads
- Tying demonstrations for proven flies successful in this area & beyond
- Redfish Flies -- Mantis Shrimp - Stealth Fly -- Glass Minnow -- Pulsator-- Bay Anchovy -- Snapping Shrimp --Redbone Fluff
- How to tie general purpose & tarpon leaders
- Reel setups
- How to prepare for a fly fishing trip

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of the industry's leaders not only in fly tying, but fly fishing in general. Please contact Woody Huband woody.mortgage@gmail.com

MEETING & SPEAKER

Sunday, May 6: Tying and Fishing Clinic at M & M Dairy with D.L. Goddard. Free clinic!! Don't miss this one. You cannot pick up a fly magazine without seeing D.L. Goddard's fly patterns. Clinic starts at 10 a.m. at M & m Dairy. Please call contact Woody huband to sign up. We need a head count for lunches: woody.mortgage@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 19 -- Annual Adams/Lott Outing and Fish Fry -- Come join us for the best outing of the year. Bill and Ann Lott and John Adams provide one of the finest fried fish lunches you've ever seen. We are also looking for folks to donate fish fillets to the cause. Please email Ann Lott to sign up annlott@aug.com

Saturday, June 2 -- Rodman Reservoir bass outing. More info at the DL Goddard Clinic and June Newsletter.

Monday, June 4 -- June FCFF Meeting. Neil Armeneon-The St. John's River Keeper. Presentation on the condition, care & future of our River(narming@ju.edu)

Sat. - Sun, June 23-24 -- Annual Stuart tarpon/ snook Outing -- reserve rooms now. More info at June Meeting



See Ya, Scott

It's with sad heart that we bring you the news of the untimely death of one of our early and really good-guy members -- Scott Sheridan. Scott died last week of complications of ALS, Lou Gerhig's disease.

A few years back, Scott and his wife Cathy got tired of driving back and forth to North Carolina to fish, so they bought and built on 10 acres near Waynesville, NC.

Newer FCFFers won't remember Scott, but you've certainly been the recipients of his largess, business sense, and dedication to the club.

For nearly a decade he worked tirelessly for the FCFF, functioning as board member, membership chair, banquet chair, always willing to jump in and help sort things out or get things ready.



At one time or another, Scott held most every board position we have, except president (not that we didn't try -- often). In every instance and capacity, Scott was exceptional. We even used his offices for years as a board meeting room.

Scott was a serious fly fisher, an interested and interesting traveling companion, a faithful friend, and a religious guy. He was always game and he was always ready to plan a new trip. He was a fun guy with a quiet sense of humor and a keen business mind.

He was diagnosed with ALS shortly after completing his North Carolina mountain

home. It was an unkind cut, and unfair deal, but Scott took on ALS the way he approached everything else -- he became a spokesman for the disease, traveling to Washington in his wheelchair to press Congress for more research funding. "I'm not just going to roll over and let this thing kill me," he said. He didn't. In one 'walk' for the cure, Scott, Cathy and another friend raised \$30,000 for ALS research, even though they rained out after the first lap.

Those of us who were lucky enough to know him for awhile will miss his quiet self assurance, his willingness to help, and companionship. For a bio on Scott, go to www.fcff.org/sheridan.htm

Officers and Directors of First Coast Fly Fishers

PRESIDENT

Jason Sheasley
pgflyfisher@gmail.com

VP PROGRAMS

Rich Santos
Rslov2fish@aol.com
(904) 635-0946

VP OUTINGS

Woody Huband
Whuband@yahoo.net

TREASURER

Lew Holliday
lewcarol@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY

Rob Bernardo
kiribas@aol.com

LIBRARIAN

Bob White
rgwhite@lycos.com

EDUCATION

Jim McCully
exxray2002@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

Greg McCarthy
gmccarthy19@comcast.net;

AT LARGE

Bob Connery
bgeconnery@comcast.net
Dennis Dahlquist
dennis.dahlquist@pleasantsflorida.com

BANQUET

Dr. Larry Holder
leholder@earthlink.net

NEWSLETTER

David Lambert
dlambert@onwatermedia.com

Andros Bonefishing

'Wind, More Wind, and A Passing Front. Still We Caught Some Fish'



by Don Mckinnon

The wind blew and then blew some more. It was extremely difficult for the guide to see the fish, therefore almost impossible for us to see them. Then the horizon filled up with clouds so that the reflection off the water was making it seem like peering into a bubbly mirror. I looked back at our guide, Brian and he shook his head disgustedly. We both knew it was time to give up fishing.

This was the third day of our trip and Mark Brodersen and I had done pretty well earlier catching some bones while wading. We felt pretty good about the day considering the conditions, windy, front passing, and the overhead clouds "turning the lights out" all day. Mark was kind enough to get in the windward seat for the 30 minute ride back to Andros Island Bonefishing Club. He regretted that decision immediately as it was like riding a bucking horse while buckets of water were tossed on him.

Eight of us intrepid anglers, Bud Larsen, Henry Dunbar, Dave Kudley, Jody Ballard, John Morford, Donn McKinnon, Greg Durrance, and Mark Brodersen left Jacksonville in the early morning April, 20 and drove to the Orlando Airport. We caught a Delta Connection flight to Nassau, Bahamas and then boarded a

Western Air flight for the 10 minute flight to Andros Town. A couple of taxis took us for about a 25 minute ride to Andros Island Bonefishing Club.

AIBC is located on the east coast of Andros Island at the mouth of Cargill Creek which is located just north of the huge upper bight dividing Andros into two separate Islands. The club is the place Lefty Kreh said he would choose to go if he had to choose just one place to go fishing. The club is owned and operated by the famous Bahamian guide, Rupert Leaden, and just about everybody famous in the fly fishing world has fished with him.

Our club members found the club clean, laid-back, with the staff extremely accommodating. Also the meals were delicious! Even with the remoteness of the place, we ate some wonderful dishes. Things such as Conch Chowder, Conch Fritters, Lobster Bisque, barracuda, snapper, grouper, and even pizza were on the menu. Breakfast was cooked to order at 6:30 AM. There were lunch fixings spread on a table for us to make our own lunches which were put in the boat cooler. Spicy tuna salad was the best sandwich choice. The fishing day was from 7:45 AM to 4 PM.

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Andros Island Bonefish Club

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Not a great amount of bones were caught by anyone. However, we had 4 people who had never caught a bonefish before and they all caught fish! The first day was great weather-wise. It took a little time to get used to the guide's accent and understanding what we wanted. The guides want you to cast in front of the fish, wait for it to drop to the bottom, then make a fairly long strip or two for the fish to find the fly, then stop it while the fish runs over to it, then strip again and you should have a fish. You don't have to be too subtle with these fish. In fact, whenever I tried to cast to the largest fish in a small school, a small one would run over and steal the fly most of the time.

On the second day, the wind was up even before we left the club in the morning. Fishing was tough in the bight. Jody Ballard and Greg Durrance went on the long run through the bight to the west coast and found lots of fish. Dave Kudley and I went to an island just before the west coast and only caught one apiece. It was a long, long, long 1 hour ride back against the 20 knot wind in our faces.

The third day, the wind was even stronger. None of the guides even wanted to go any distance into the bight as the wind was blowing from east to west right down the middle of it. Two boats fished in Cargill Creek to try and stay out of the wind and as I related in the beginning, Mark Brodersen and I went up the east coast about 30 minutes to a wade-able flat.

Even though the fishing could have been better, all of us found the trip to be well worth it. Marion (who replaced Donna Teeny in 2005) and her staff at AIBC were very attentive and accommodating. The consensus was that it was a place we would all like to go back to. It is definitely a trip worth considering for those wishing to find hungry bonefish in a great setting all for less than \$2,000.00 for four nights and three days fishing.



Above, FCFFers Pose For A Group Shot. Top Right, david Kudley; Center, Bud larsen, Lower Center, Greg Durrance, Bottom Right: adros From Above.
Photos: Dave Kudley, Bud larsen

Observance on Teaching Casting with Lefty Kreh

by Gordon Hill, FFF Casting Board of Governors
(Ed. Note: Gordy Hill lives in South Florida where he has fly fished the Keys for 5 decades or more.)

I just returned from a visit to New Jersey working with Lefty Kreh and Jim Valle on some, “new” and some “old” ideas and concepts on casting. (Just the three of us.) We held forth at the great new L&H fly shop there which has an ideal set-up for this including room for a couple of hundred observers and a perfect casting pond with a high dark forest background for easy visibility of fly lines.

On the following day, we gave a casting demo and teaching which was well attended. Bob Popovics (author of Pop Fleyes by Bob and Ed Joworowski) did fly tying demonstrations.

The third day was spent giving a one day prep session for CCI and (one) MCCI candidate(s).

Some new and old concepts presented by Lefty:-

1.) He is just as firm as ever on his use of his well studied low elbow style with predominantly off horizontal rod plane and slight change of rod planes between forward and back casts. This style includes the thumb-on-top grip. It also includes the use of very little wrist motion. He uses this method for teaching at all casting levels. Despite this, he is quite capable of making great casts and presentations using other styles. As he did his casting demos, his loops were the best needle sharp ones imaginable. His rod tip rarely moved higher than his casting shoulder. His distances were enviable (we didn't measure them) and were obviously reached with minimum effort. He maxed the end of the casting pond which was beyond 100' easily with the use of the casting hand only. We were impressed that he was able to do this repeatedly all morning without showing any sign of fatigue or missing a stride despite the fact that he is a small, lightly muscled man of 82 years.

2.) With this particular style, he maintains firmly that the caster's elbow must move in a single plane during both the forward cast and the back cast. (He has the student imagine that the elbow is on a smooth shelf.)

3.) He's adamant that the thumb nail must be directly in line with the target on both strokes.

4.) Rather than teaching a separate drift move after the stop on the back cast, he teaches to bring the rod tip back as far as necessary and then come to a stop. (When

carried to extreme as when distance casting, this has often been referred to as the, “Lefty's Stab”.)

5.) All his demo casts were done with a TFO 5 wt. using a floating, short belly, “Head Start” line (WF5F).

6.) His distance roll casts were done with extremely tight loops, very little effort, and a distinct delay of rotational stroke phase (rod arc) until just prior to the stop.....then a smooth, “speed-up-and-stop”.

7.) Change of direction casts approached 90 degrees with the use of a single handed rod for his version of the, “snake roll” in either direction.

8.) He showed us a trick (which I didn't know) to make large up-current mends without the dry fly being disturbed at all from its dead drift. (He simply shakes out some extra line from the rod tip before making the mend. That way, the mend doesn't straighten the leader and move the fly.)

9.) His loop control for efficient and accurate presentations using different loop sizes and shapes was second to none.

10.) While deeply entrenched in his own style for casting and teaching, he has also listened to some of us FFF folks. One example of this is his recent departure from his prior teaching and writings on the double and single hauls. You will remember his insistence on hauls being very fast and brief. Now he embraces the concept of the haul matching the distance of the cast and the amount of line out of the rod tip. To this he has added the idea that the speed of the haul should match that of the stroke.

11.) He caught me leaving a bit of slack between my haul hand and the stripper guide. (Shame on me !)

12.) We REALLY got into it on his theories regarding tailing loops. He has been teaching that the main (among many) reason for the tail is that the caster throws one leg of the loop at the other and that this happens, with his style, when the caster's elbow rises and falls during the stroke. He's been teaching that, “it has nothing to do with concave lines.” Jim and I spent a lot of time watching him do the tails, and correcting the tailing loops of students. My own observation was that this did yield a concave path of the rod tip. Lefty finally bought this concept when I pointed out that I felt that this produced a, “WOW” in the line

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On Teaching and Talking With Lefty

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which was bulky in comparison with a straight line and made the likelihood of a collision (tail) and a wind knot much more likely. He touted the method of dipping the rod tip down “a frog hair” as the loop began to form as one cure. (This often does work...though I have always looked at this as skirting the issue with a, “bandaid cure”.

I demo'd the tailing loop made in the vertical rod plane with no concave rod tip path during the stroke, but a distinct acute angle (concavity) between strokes. This was first taught to me by Doug Swisher, many years ago, and is well depicted in Mac Brown's book, CASTING ANGLES. Neither Doug or Mac emphasized the fact that in order to do this you must not change rod planes between back cast and forward cast.

We finished that long private session on tailing loops with the conclusion that, in the end, we were all talking about the same thing!

13.) Without giving the student the concept of the almost straight line path of the rod tip yielding a tight loop (because he feels that doesn't really get in to the early student's brain in a useful way) he gets a beginner to make a nice tight loop by telling him, “TRY TO THROW YOUR LINE RIGHT AT YOUR ROD TIP”worked like a charm as he took several brand new casters and had them throwing tight loops after about 2 minutes instruction.

14.) Lefty likes giving the student the idea that, “you are not throwing your fly line. YOU ARE UNROLLING A LOOP TO A TARGET.” This is his prelude for teaching the use of technique rather than strength and the use of smooth acceleration.

15.) On the distance cast, he teaches the concept that the rod hand makes the cast, but that the line hand, “is your accelerator.” In line with this, he teaches that you should use no more energy on your final delivery cast than you did on the prior forward false cast as far as the rod arm is concerned, but that you should haul faster. (A slight exaggeration to make a point.)

16.) He still teaches that the, “size of your loop is determined by the distance that you speed up and stop”.

Many of us challenged that concept until Lefty pointed out that it is usually true that the greater the distance for the speed up and stop, the more likely that you introduce a convex rod tip path and unload farther below the oncoming line. He looks at his statement as stretching the truth just a tiny bit which he feels is a kind of, “poetic license” which gets in to the student's brain faster.

*At 82,
Lefty Can
Still Run The
Fly Line on a
5-Weight
Well Into The
Backing Using
Nowith No Line
Hand*

17.) I don't need to go over the “PRINCIPLES” of fly casting which he's published, for you have all read them. At these sessions, he emphasized two of them: I. You have got to get the end of the line moving before you can make the cast. and II. The line will go in the direction that the tip was going when it came to a stop.

18.) He demonstrated the use of increased rotatory body motion using his style of casting, for older folks who are stiff, as well as those who have shoulder and/or elbow disabilities.

Even though many of us have perceived Lefty as belonging to a different camp, I can assure you that he is entirely respectful of the strides our FFF has made in embracing various styles and of our open mindedness of recent years.

He is a lifetime FFF member.

Refreshing to have a, “meeting of the minds” like this!



Donn McKinnon with Andros Island Bonefish



N GA & Tennessee Trout Tips From October Speaker Dane Law

Southeastern Anglers, Reliance Tennessee. toll free 866-558-7688. www.southeasternanglers.com

Tennessee Overhill Fishing Report - The Overhill region is considered as the west slope of the Appalachian Mountains in southeast Tennessee. The term was first used by the Cherokee Indians to describe the land west and over the hill from their settlements and villages near Cherokee, North Carolina.

This is the region we call home, and it is spring trout fishing time in the Tennessee Overhill. The weather has warmed, the redbuds and dogwoods are blooming and we will soon have leaves on most of the trees. Our rainbow and



brown trout are eager as the first heavy insect hatches of the year are upon us.

Here are some of the hatches we will be targeting on the streams we fish. Hendricksons - Mid April, nymphs early, and then dry flies as the hatch progresses. Best streams; The Toccoa, lower Hiwassee, and Tellico. Grannom Caddis - late April to mid May. Pupas then emergers early followed by dropper rigs and dry flies in the afternoon. Best streams; lower Hiwassee, Holston, Cumberland. Sulfurs - May to early June, nymphs early, then dry flies. Our favorite dry fly hatch. Best streams; Toccoa, Hiwassee, Clinch, Cumberland.

Captain's Club Marine Flea market

Captain's Club marine Flea Market Sat and Sunday, May 5 & 6; 8 - 6 Sat; Sun - 8 - 4 Beach Marine on the ICW 2315 Beach Blvd (US 90). Fishing tackle, Marine electronics, Scub Gear, Marine Art. For More Info David or Bobbie Day 904-294-0951; 904-333-4710

Support The Guides & Shops Who Support First Coast Fly Fishers

Capt David Borries

capt david borries@comcast.net
904/708-8915

Capt John Bottko

feather2@ix.netcom.com
904/645-8998

Capt Tony Bozzella

bozzella@aol.com
904/651-0182

Capt Vaughn Cochran

blackflyjax@bellsouth.net
904/997-2220

Master Casting Instructor

David Lambert
dlambert@onwatermedia.com
241-4163

Capt. Brian McGowan

Strike Zone Fishing
904/641-2433

Capt. Larry Miniard

captlmin@bellsouth.net
904/285-7003

Capt Doug Moore

mmdairy@aol.com
757-3323; 545-0602 Cell

Tying Instr. Don Reed

donreed@saltwaterflytyers.com
904/535-6929

Stockton Safaris Inc

Capt Jimmy Stockton
904/316-2143

Avid Angler

2101 N Ponce de Leon Ave
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,
FL 904-645-8998

WWW.SALTYFEATHER.COM

Strike Zone Fishing

11702 BEACH BLVD. JACKSONVILLE

904-641-2433

WWW.STRIKE-ZONEFISHING.COM

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