

First Coast Fly Fisher

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www.fcff.org

October 2007



New!!
October
Tides and Solunar
Data on Website:
<http://www.fcff.org>

FCFFer Bart Isaac Shook This Behemoth Off His Cork, Then Sent A Winning Cast To The Beauty in the Inset

MEETING & SPEAKER

Monday, Nov. 5 -- FCFF general meeting. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. Speaker: FFF Master Casting Instructor David Lambert. Lambert's presentation, *Evaluating the Cast Using LSD (Loop Size, Shape, Speed and Direction)* is an easy-to-understand, occasionally funny, useful look at diagnosing problems with the fly cast--both yours and others. He is the author of Smart Casts and is a Florida editor for Sport Fishing magazine.

COMING EVENTS

New Moon -- Thursday Oct., Sept. 11; Full Moon, Friday, Sept. 26

Saturday, October 27 -- Redfish in the Grass. This may be one of the final days of the 2007 grassfishing season in North Florida. Come join us for a morning fish and maybe a post-fishing lunch. Two launch points: Small boats put in at Palm Valley Bridge. Bigger boats launch at Vilano. This is a 9:30 a.m. tide at Mayport and St. Augustine. More info at website in the coming weeks.

November TBA -- Cumberland Island trout at Jim McCully's. Date to be determined.



September 2007: Crabs in The Cordgrass by Rich Santos.

FCFF To Print 2008 Calendar. Submit Best Outdoors/Fly Fishing Photos To FCFF Forum Calendar Page.

Submit your photos today for our 2008 fishing calendar. Go online to the FCFF Forum and enter your photos. Photos will be chosen by club vote in November. The rules are below.

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 Photos must be unpublished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 The photo must be unpublished.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.

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Casting Into A Headwind

It's Never A Question of 'Will There Be Wind, But Simply 'How Much?'

by Gordy Hill

My very favorite subject? Casting into howling headwinds.

Let's look at the variations over which one has control with respect to head and tail wind casting.

a. Loop control (Tight on the forward cast, wider on the back cast)

b. Trajectory (launch angle or line plane). (High on back cast, lower on forward cast with 180 degrees between the two, forward cast directed to the target rather than above it.)

c. Loop speed

(Greater on the forward cast, less on the back cast.)

d. Increased rod load on the forward delivery cast.

e. Change of timing between forward and back casts.

(More time for the loop to unroll on the back cast, less for the forward cast.)

d. When false casting, carrying less line until the final back cast. (Vice versa when casting with a tail wind.)

We have discussed making a high back cast to take advantage of the wind to "kite" the back cast, then follow it with an accelerated, tight-loop front cast aimed directly at the target. This has been described as the "Lefty Kreh Wind Cast," also known as the "Storm Cast" (by Charles Ritz) and the "Thrust Cast" (by Gary and Jason Borger). This adds a thrust at the conclusion of the delivery cast such that you don't stop until your elbow is extended as you "run out of arm". Done properly, this can generate tremendous loop speed while maintaining a tight loop.



Veteran Wind Caster Warren Hinrichs

Below are other things that help with casting into the wind, such as changes in equipment, ie:

a. More dense fly line (smaller diameter = less wind resistance)

b. Going to a fly line of different design (Such as a short steep forward taper or a shooting head)

c. Shorter leader

d. Smaller, less bulky fly.

d. Increasing to a higher system. (Such as going from a 4 wt. outfit to a 7 wt.)

You could even get into a discussion of finding and taking

advantage of wind breaks, that a good high wind break behind you does diminish even a wind blowing toward you.

Once in a while, while surf fly casting on a gusty day, we time our presentation cast to intervals between gusts and there are rare instances when I will make a super low side arm cast into a wind from literally below the deck of my flats skiff with the loop traveling only a few inches above the wave tops. This DOES work for short distances.

One highly specialized wind cast for into the wind presentation has recently been described by Joe Mulson. Basically you strike the water with the line at high speed in such a manner that the line unrolls on the water with the loop just above it timed to turn over just before the target.

Next issue: The Joe Mulson Wind Cast.

A Matter of Black or White

by Dana Griffin, III

There's scarcely a flyrodder left who hasn't arched an eyebrow when gazing at the fly plates that come with the new round of catalogs. Some of the colors – hot pink, electric blue, insect green – must surely encourage the question of what were these people on when they concocted such patterns.

Okay, I know colors like these do occur in nature. You have only to spend some time on a tropical reef to confirm that humans are incapable of beating Mother Nature in the gaudy colors game, but most of us do not drag flies through tropical reefs. What's more, our local game fish are use to foraging on much plainer fare. In fact, although catalog retailers will probably scream "FOUL!" the truth of the matter is you can pretty much limit your colors to black or white and at the end of the day you won't be able to tell the difference – the difference, that is, in whether you dazzled the quarry with a palette of hues or just stuck to the basics. It should be fairly easy to test this premise.

Next time you're headed out to your favorite stream or lake, take only black and white flies. Assuming it's a day when the fish were in the mood, the likelihood is you'll have caught about the same number using only black and white patterns as those of more eye-popping colors.

Choosing patterns appropriate to the game fish and their habitats will help in beefing up the final tally. Here are a few flies (along with their tying recipes) that you might consider trying if you're casting to warm water gamesters here in the Deep South.

The Grinnell Bug is a floater and works very well on largemouth bass. It's a fly to go to if you're out on the water at night, but it also works during daylight hours.



Grinnell Bug

Hook: Mustad 3366, size 6; **Tail:** black pine squirrel zonker; **Head:** black spun deer hair

Fish it like you would any deer hair bass bug. All of the other patterns, with the exception of the White Moth, go to work under the water. You can add lead wraps to the body of any one of the wet flies if a faster sink rate is desired.

The Crystal Leech is very effective on both bass and bream. An effective retrieve is one where the angler raises and lowers the rod tip.

This causes the leech to undulate up and down, exactly as leeches move in the water.

The Black Nymph is useful in both moving and standing water. No active retrieve is required. Just cast it out, let it sink, and see what happens. The Spatterdock Grub imitates the larval stage of a moth that lays her eggs in the leaf stalk of this common water lily. Fish, although rarely seeing this stage of the insect (the grubs mature inside the leaf stalk), have no trouble recognizing them as food. No retrieve is needed. Casting this fly in and amongst spatterdocks is a good way to go.

The White Moth pattern presents to game fish the adult of the Spatterdock Grub. It's simply an elk hair cad-dis but tied all in white. This is one pattern you can leave floating on the water or moving it across the top of the water ("skittering") in imitation of these active insects. The moving strategy will sometimes bring up fish that otherwise might have sat out the game.

The White Soft Hackle is a general purpose nymph. It's best fished in moving water. A quartering cast downstream, allowing the current to move the fly toward the near bank can keep you in fish until you're tired of unhooking them. That, as one might observe, is a delicious state of fatigue to be in.



Crystal Leech

Hook: Mustad 9672, size 8

Tail: black marabou plus rainbow crystal flash

Collar: white rabbit dubbing

Hackle: partridge

Body: black marabou



White Moth

Hook: Mustad 3906B, size 10

Body: white rabbit dubbing

Wing: white calf body hair



Spatterdock Grub

Hook: Mustad 3906B, size 10

Body: white rabbit dubbing



Grinnell Bug



White Soft Hackle

Hook: Mustad 3906B, size 10

Body: white rabbit dubbing

Rib: copper wire



Black Nymph

Hook: Mustad 3906B, size 10

Tail: black marabou plus copper crystal flash

Hackle: black hen hackle

Bonefish on Big Pine Key

by *David Johnson*



David Johnson's 7.5 Lb Big Pine Key Bonefish

(From the FCFE Forum)

First day in the Big Pine Key area. My friend Byron from Missouri flew in to Jax on Wed and suggested that we start our trip early and drive down to the Keys today (the same day he flies in from MO). So off we go. We get to Big Pine Fishing Lodge at 23:00, check in to our room and launch and tie up my Wipray, then get to bed around midnight. We listen to the marine weather and all looks promising.

We wake up at 6am, and check the forecast and in the last 5 hrs a low has developed north of us, and there is a small craft advisory in effect with winds forecast to be 20 knot and gusting. We decide that we can still safely go and head for the backcountry around 8:30a or so.

We check out the channel where earlier this year I had hooked up on numerous Tarpon, but see nothing. We end up at a new spot that looks interesting and start out pole done the bank. After a hundred feet or so Byron and I spot a tail at 30 feet and I make a cast with a Merkan crab to a nice Bonefish. He Immediately darts over and inhales my fly, the line comes tight and then goes limp. I pull the line up and the leader show the tell tale signs of a poorly tied knot (MY BAD). I had tied this on at home, in the garage, where the lighting was not ideal. That's another of my stories and I'm still sticking with them.

Anyway the fish got away, so we continued our pole down this bank. After another 100 yards or so Byron,

sees another bonefish at 2 o'clock and 35 feet. I make a cast and spook this fish. As he is making his getaway I make a desperation cast where the fly lands 10 feet this side of him, and he immediately

swims over and inhales the fly. FISH ON !

He immediately heads upwind 150 feet towards a downed Mangrove limb, and I beg Byron to get us there ASAP. I see my line left of the stickup and the fish is splashing behind it and to the right. After what seems like an eternity and no progress made by Byron to get closer to the stickdown due to the wind, I see the fish splash inside of the blow-down and towards us. I finally get the fish to the boat and on the boga grip where he weighs in at 7.5 After another 100 yards or so Byron, sees another bonefish at 2 o'clock and 35 feet. I make a cast and spook this fish. As he is making his getaway I make a desperation cast where the fly lands 10 feet this side of him, and he immediately swims over and inhales the fly. FISH ON ! He immediately heads upwind 150 feet towards a downed Mangrove limb, and I beg Byron to get us there ASAP. I see my line left of the stickup and the fish is splashing behind it and to the right. After what seems like an eternity and no progress made by Byron to get closer to the stickdown due to the wind, I see the fish splash inside of the blow-down and towards us. I finally get the fish to the boat and on the boga grip where he weighs in at 7.5 lbs.

Using Winds and a Barometer to Make A Nearly Accurate Weather Forecast

Source: National Weather Service

Below are some general statements of wind-barometer indications that are generally applicable to all parts of the country:

- “When the wind sets in from between south and southeast and the barometer falls steadily, a storm is approaching from the west or northwest; its center will pass near or north of the observer within 12 to 24 hours, with wind shifting to the northwest by way of south and southwest.
- “When the wind sets in from points between east and northeast and the barometer falls steadily, a storm is approaching from the south or southwest, and its center will pass near or to the south of the observer within 12 to 24 hours, with winds shifting to northwest by way of north. The rapidity of the storm’s approach and its intensity will be indicated by the rate and amount of the fall in the barometer.
- “As a rule, winds from the east quadrants and falling barometric pressure indicate foul weather, and winds shifting to the west quadrants indicate clearing and fair weather, but again there are exceptions and in some parts of the country these rules do not apply.”

The following table generally summarizes wind and barometer indications in the United States. The amateur forecaster should modify the table in accordance with his or her own observations. The following show the wind direction, the barometer reduced to sea level and the character of the weather indicated:

- SW to NW, 30.10 to 30.20 and steady - Fair with slight temperature change for 1 to 2 days.
- SW to NW, 30.10 to 30.20 and rising rapidly - Fair, followed within 2 days by rain.
- SW to NW, 30.20 and above and stationary - Continued fair, with no decided temperature change.
- SW to NW, 30.20 and above and falling slowly - Slowly rising temperature and fair for 2 days.
- S to SE, 30.10 to 30.20 and falling slowly - Rain within 24 hours.
- S to SE, 30.10 to 30.20 and falling rapidly - Wind increasing in force, with rain within 12 to 24 hours.
- SE to NE, 30.10 to 30.20 and falling slowly - Rain in 12 to 18 hours.
- SE to NE, 30.10 to 30.20 and falling rapidly - Increasing wind, and rain within 12 hours.
- E to NE, 30.10 and above and falling slowly - In summer, with light winds, rain may not fall for several days. In winter, rain within 24 hours.
- E to NE, 30.10 and above and falling rapidly - In summer, rain probably within 12 to 24 hours. In winter, rain or snow, with increasing winds, will often set in when the barometer begins to fall and the wind sets in from the NE.
- SE to NE, 30.00 or below and falling slowly - Rain will continue 1 to 2 days. SE to NE, 30.00 or below and falling rapidly - Rain, with high wind, followed, within 36 hours by clearing, and in winter by colder.
- S to SW, 30.00 or below and rising slowly - Clearing within a few hours, and fair for several days.
- S to E, 29.80 or below and falling rapidly - Severe storm imminent, followed within 24 hours, by clearing, and in winter by colder.
- E to N, 29.80 or below and falling rapidly - Severe northeast gale and heavy precipitation; in winter, heavy snow, followed by a cold wave. Going to W, 29.80 or below and rising rapidly - Clearing and colder.



Top Left - Rich Santos' 5 lbs of Red
Top right - Mr. Mike McQuiston Takes a South Valley Red.
Below - Reds from Kayaks

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