

FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

JULY 2012

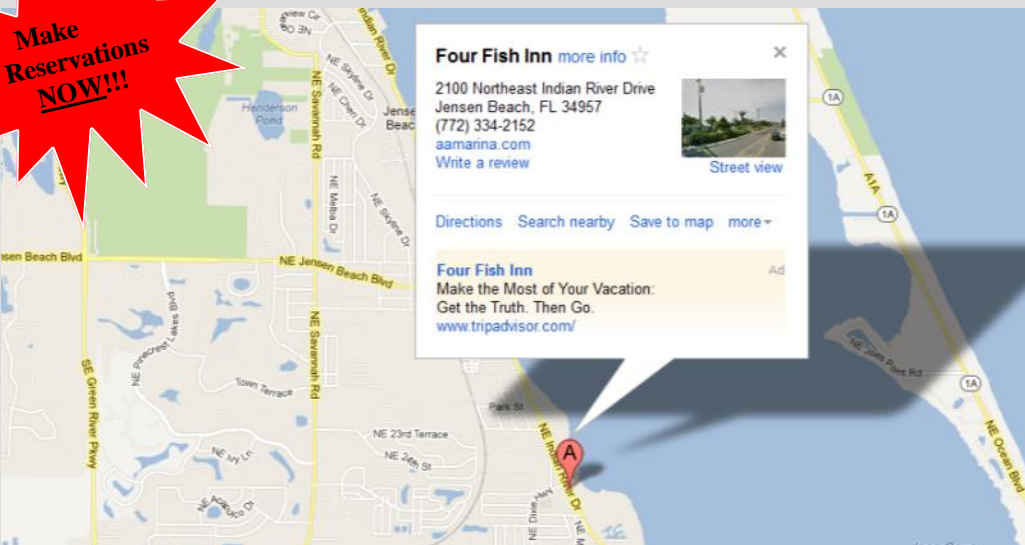


Planning to Attend the July Outing ...Read this!

July 20th through the 22nd, the Club will be heading to Stuart, Florida to night fish for snook. We will be staying at the Four Fish Marina and Inn at 2100 NE Indian River Drive in Jensen Beach. It's been several years since the Club has held an outing in Stuart. This trip will mark the Club's return to a great area to fish.

If you have never been, the Stuart/Jensen Beach area is a great fishery. In addition to snook, you will have opportunities to take redfish, jacks, sea trout and tarpon. Whether it is power craft or paddle craft, you will need a boat for this outing. If you are without a boat and would like to attend the outing, contact Vice President of Outings Mike Harrigan (outings@fcff.org) and he will partner you up with a boat.

The Four Fish Marina and Inn has boat ramp on the premises and trailer parking. The Inn has a limited number of large and small rooms available. The large rooms can accommodate 3 people. The small rooms can accommodate 1 to 2 people. The larger rooms are available for \$95/night plus tax and the smaller rooms can be had for \$75/night plus tax. A limited number of rooms are available. So if you are interested in going, it is recommended you make reservations immediately. Contact the hotel at **772-334-0936**.



On the Cover:

Poling at sunset by Seth Nehrke.

Second Place Winner of the FCFF Newsletter Photo Contest.

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FIRST COAST FLY
FISHERS
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FCFF July 2nd Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Jerry McBride

The next meeting of the First Coast Fly Fishers will be Monday July 2nd. Our guest speaking will be author, photographer, television personality, D.O.A Lures representative and fishing extraordinaire Jerry McBride.

Jerry McBride is Fishing Director for Made-In-America D.O.A. Lures. He is also a contributing editor to *Florida Sportsman*. In recent years, Jerry has been focusing on kayak fishing, offering classes and seminars across the state.

He gets his passion for fishing honestly. A native Floridian, Jerry has been fishing all his life. He once said, *"My first memory is fishing on the family dock in Boynton Beach, Florida, with my grandfather, who lived across the street. The dock was situated across from the Boynton Inlet on the C16 Canal. When the locks opened two blocks upstream, snook would pour through the inlet to feed on the forage flushing through the gates. This was in the late 1950's before AC was common, so neighbors slept with their windows open. The*



"popping" of the snook would literally wake people up at night, and fishermen would grab a plug rod. As I recall, my uncle, who lived next door, actually held the 12-pound line class world record snook for a couple weeks as a result. Anyway, I'm sure this early exposure to the water, and listening to the family's prolific outdoor stories, had its effects on me."

Jerry is a natural story teller. His stories are informative as well as humorous and entertaining. He will be bringing his on unique style of storytelling to the Club when he talks about tips and techniques for catching record setting fish.



Jerry with a pending world record snook

Norman Maclean's Best Work

In 1975, Norman Maclean, a retired University of Chicago English Professor, submitted a collection of original stories to be published by Alfred A. Knopf. Knopf originally agreed to publish the book, then rejected it without explanation. The following year, the University of Chicago Press stepped in and published Maclean's now-famous book *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*. The book garnished critical acclaim and spurred the movie by the same name.

Acknowledging this egregious mistake, Knopf editor Charles Elliott wrote Maclean in 1981, expressing inter-

est in publishing his next book. Maclean responded to Elliott with the following letter. Later, Maclean would go on to say of the letter, it was *"...one of the best things I ever wrote...I really told those bastards off, What a pleasure!, What a pleasure! Right into my hands! Probably the only dream I ever had in life that came completely true."*

Dear Mr. Elliott:

I have discovered that I have been writing you under false pretenses, although stealing from myself more than from you. I have stolen from myself the opportunity of seeing the dream of every rejected author come true.

The dream of every rejected author must be to see, like sugar plums dancing in his head, please-can't-we-see-your-next-manuscript letters standing in piles on his desk, all coming from publishing companies that rejected his previous manuscript, especially from the more pompous of the fatted cows grazing contentedly in the publishing field. I am sure that, under the influence of those dreams, some of the finest f—k—you prose in the English language has been composed but, alas, never published. And to think that the rare moment in history came to me when I could in actuality have written the prose masterpiece for all rejected authors – and I didn't even see that history had swung wide its doors to me.

You must have known that Alfred A. Knopf turned down my first collection of stories after playing games with it, or at least the game of cat's-paw, now rolling it over and saying they were going to publish it and then rolling it on its back when the president of the company announced it wouldn't sell. So I can't understand how you could ask if I'd submit my second manuscript to Alfred A. Knopf, unless you don't know my race of people. And I can't understand how it didn't register on me – 'Alfred A. Knopf' is clear enough on your stationery.

But, although I let the big moment elude me, it has given rise to little pleasures. For instance, whenever I receive a statement of the sales of 'A River Runs Through It' from the University of Chicago Press, I see that someone has written across the bottom of it, 'Hurrah for Alfred A. Knopf.' However, having let the great moment slip by unrecognized and unadorned, I can now only weakly say this: if the situation ever arose when Alfred A. Knopf was the only publishing house remaining in the world and I was the sole remaining author, that would mark the end of the world of books.

Very sincerely,
Norman Maclean

BREAKING NEWS...

PICOLATA, FL— Check the thermometers. Because as sure as you're born, hell has frozen over. After years of disparaging every make and manner of paddle craft, Picolata resident Mike McQuiston found himself afflicted by the ailment common to all motor-craft owners, *it's-in-the-shop syndrome*. This unfortunate ailment comes on the heels of McQuiston's recuperation from surgery which kept him from fishing for several weeks. With the recent series of flood tides to hit the First Coast, McQuiston was faced with the possibility of missing out on the opportunity to fish for reds in the grass.

Enlightened fly fishermen John Adams and Bill Lott, sympathetic to Mr. McQuiston's plight, offered him an opportunity to fish the flooded grass flats in a kayak. Faced with the possibility of missing an optimum flood tide, McQuiston quickly weighed his options. He could watch Bill Dance reruns while waiting for his boat to be repaired, or go kayak fishing and run the risk of invalidating years of bring reproach upon the paddle-fishing set.

Not one to miss an opportunity to fish a flood tide, McQuiston swallowed his pride and quickly found himself piloting a kayak across the grass flats at the Guanna River. According to McQuiston "John and Bill [were] snickering as we pulled out, and I immediately noticed I was having a



McQuiston in a kayak sneaking up on a tailing red.

tough time keeping up. When we stopped at the first flat about 15 miles upwind, John walked over and pulled my anchor up that I had been trailing since we left the dock."

"Kayakers are no damn good" McQuiston was head saying among the chortling of Adams and Lott. However, it didn't take long for Mike to change his tune. "As soon as the water started to cover the grass, we spotted tails, but the reds kept their noses in the mud. When the sun went behind the trees, the fish turned aggressive and we managed to land some truly big reds in very windy conditions." After bringing to hand several handsome tailing reds McQuiston was quick to note that "this human-powered stuff ain't too bad!"

It is unlikely that McQuiston will trade-in his motorcraft for a new kayak. However, one would expect the kayak-basing to see a reprieve.



McQuiston with a nice red.



Bill Lott sneaking up on a tailing red.

Dock-Light Snook Flies

By Ryan Curley

Here are a few examples of some effective patterns for snook under the docklights of South Florida. The most important thing about these flies, in my opinion, is that they are white and/or translucent. The snook feeding under the lights can be extremely selective, as well as educated in some areas. The bait that these fish are feeding on is small, not the typical mullet or other large prey found during the day. Most of the bait present consists of either glass minnows or other small fish and invertebrates. All three of these patterns have done well in the lights for me.

Soluble Minnow

This pattern is the smallest of the three, tied on a #6 hook. The material is sparse, and it has an epoxy head with a prominent eye. This is a very realistic representation of a glass minnow. Capt. Greg Bowdish, out of Ft. Myers, is the originator of this pattern.

Materials

Hook: Mustad C70SD #6
Thread: .006 Clear Mono
Body: Flash and Slinky (grey, natural, or white)
Flash: Gliss-n-glow (MOP root beer or MOP chartreuse)
Eyes: Holographic Dome Eyes – 1/8" Super Pearl
Head: 5-minute epoxy

DT Special

This fly is made almost entirely from hackles; one can choose to build it completely with neck hackles or mix saddles or schlappen to create the collar. It has a rather thin profile in the water with enough movement to warrant strikes when swung motionless in the current.

Materials

Hook: Mustad 34007 #2
Thread: Danville Flat Waxed Nylon White
Tail/Collar: White Neck Hackles

Flash: Pearl crystal flash
Eyes: Holographic Dome Eyes – 1/8" Super Pearl
Nose: Red Thread
Head: 5-minute epoxy



SOLUBLE MINNOW



DT SPECIAL

Dock-Light Snook Flies

Crystal Schminnow

This is the simplest of the three to tie; it's basically a white woolly bugger with a long marabou tail. It is impressionistic, not mimicking any one thing, but rather suggesting several prey items at once. Norm Zeigler created this fly for Snook in the surf of Sanibel Island.

Materials

Hook: Mustad 34007 #4 or #2

Thread: Danville Flat Waxed Nylon White

Tail: White Marabou

Body: Pearl Crystal or Cactus Chenille Medium

Eyes: Mono or Plastic Bead chain

Tying Instructions for the Crystal Schminnow

1. Wrap thread from hook eye back to the bend of the hook and tie down a marabou feather 1.5x the hook shank length.
2. Make 4 or 5 post wraps around the base of the marabou to prevent fouling. This is done by grasping the entire clump of marabou and wrapping around the base of the tail, just over the back of the hook, not around the hook.
3. Tie in the crystal chenille directly in front of the tail and advance the thread forward; attach the plastic bead chain eyes about a hook eye's length behind the eye of the hook. After the eyes are secured, keep the thread on the forward side of the plastic eyes.
4. Coat the thread wraps along the shank with some Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails. This adds some durability to the fly. Snook, as well as docks, are hard on flies, and this step gives the fly enough durability to catch a few fish before needing to be changed.
5. Palmer the crystal chenille forward to the eyes, making sure that each successive wrap is situated right next to the previous wrap. When the eyes are reached, figure-eight the chenille around the eyes and tie off just behind the hook eye.
6. Whip finish and apply head cement (Sally Hansen's) to finish the fly.



The Rise Streamside Observations on Trout, Flies & Fly Fishing

By Paul Schullery

Published by Stackpole Books

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Reviewed by Jason C. Sheasley

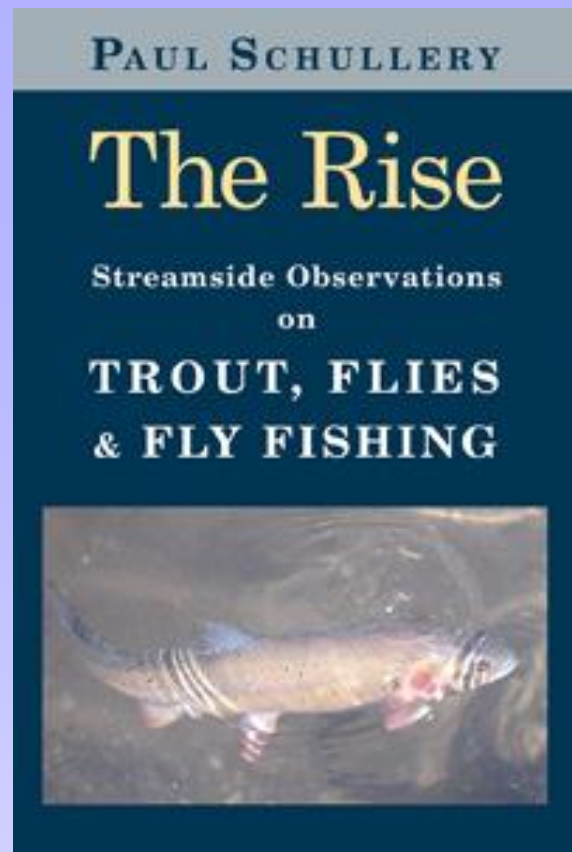
The Rise, Streamside Observations on Trout, Flies and Fly Fishing is Paul Schullery's in-depth treatise on the history of fly fishing and how many of the techniques and practices we take for granted came into being. Schullery spent the better part of the last 40 years as a student of nature. He retired from the National Park Service in 2008 as Chief of Cultural Resources for Yellowstone National Park. It can be argued that no one knows more about the history and natural environment of Yellowstone than Schullery. Add to this his passion for fly fishing and it is little doubt why *The Rise* is an important book in the history of fly-fishing literature.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part, *How Trout Take a Fly*, delves into thousands years of fly fishing history. Schullery goes all the way back to the second century A.D. and introduces us to author and angler Claudius Aelianus who first recorded accounts of catching fish on a fly in Macedonia. For much of history Aelianus has been relegated to nothing more than a footnote. However, Schullery argues that he is one of the first in recorded history to document catching fish with an artificial fly.

From those auspicious beginnings, to the theory and practice of anglers like American Theodore Gordon and Britts George Skues and Frederick Halford, Schullery looks at what we know about fly fishing and how we came to know it. For well over 300 years, much study has been given to the rise of a trout to a fly. History quantifies the rise and the key to fly fishing. Understanding the rise is to know the very soul of a trout.

The first part of the book is interwoven 40 years of observations made by Schullery studying trout behavior. This includes some of his amazing photographs of trout feeding taken from the famous Fishing Bridge on the Yellowstone River.

In the second part of the book, *How We Take a Fly*, Schullery looks at the angler and how he catches fish. He examines the traditions and notions of fly fishing



such as upstream dry fly fishing, dry versus wet flies, and the theory and design of soft hackle flies.

Schullery looks at how certain fly fishing concepts, long held as sacred, came into being, and how many of them have absolutely nothing to do with catching fish. Schullery compares and contrasts the American and British methods of fly fishing. Much to the chagrin of the British, the American method of fly fishing casts aside many of those staunch traditions in favor of techniques that catch fish rather than promote the mythical fly fishing experience.

One interesting topic Schullery covers is the notion of "educated fish." For a long time this notion of fish learning how to spot an artificial fly, has been the excuse for many fish-less days. As a naturalist, Schullery offers unique insight into this notion. Along with it he discusses whether a visible hook is cause for trout to reject a fly.

The Rise, is well written and well researched, as are practically all of Paul Schullery's books. It is thought provoking as well as informative. However, it is not for everyone. This scholarly work is best suited for someone who has a passion and curiosity for the history of fly fishing. However, those who pick up the book won't be disappointed.

DEP JOINS AMERICAN RIVERS AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN LAUNCHING THE SUWANNEE RIVER STORY

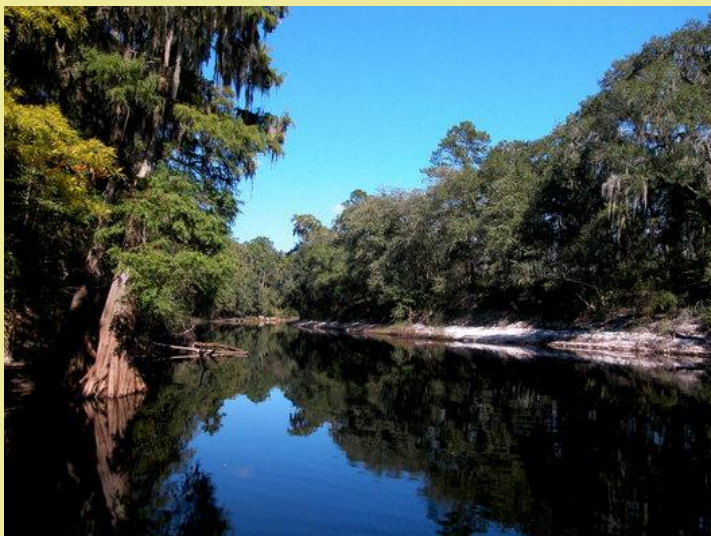
TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in conjunction with American Rivers and the National Park Service launched “River Stories,” an innovative, storytelling website that aims to engage people in understanding, enjoying and conserving their waterways.

Using National Geographic Maps’ groundbreaking GeoStories platform, River Stories combines maps, photos and video to take viewers on virtual tours of waterways across the country, allowing them to experience the journey on the water.

“The 170-mile Suwannee River Wilderness Trail is one of Florida’s premier paddling trails,” said Florida Park Service Director Donald Forgione. “In addition to six blue ribbon state parks along the river’s shores, the Florida Park Service has partnered with local and regional governments and businesses to create a series of river camps and hubs all within a day’s paddle of each other. Our goal is to create an exemplary paddling experience while preserving the Old Florida feeling of the river corridor. Once you’ve seen the Suwannee River Story, you’ll want to experience the river for yourself!”

The Suwannee River is one of only 10 waterways in the United States initially featured in River Stories.

Visit www.AmericanRivers.org/RiverStories and www.nps.gov/watertrails to dive into the Suwannee River Story.



CHIEFLAND WOMAN STUCK BY JUMPING STURGEON ON SUWANNEE RIVER

A Chiefland woman was struck by a jumping sturgeon about at about 4 p.m. June 2 while she and her family were boating on the Suwannee River, near Manatee Springs State Park.

Brianne H. Megargel (DOB 11/06/79) was with her husband, Stephen V. Megargel (DOB 06/07/69) and his 10-year-old son, Grayson Megargel, traveling north at about 25 mph in their 17-foot open boat when the accident happened, according to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) investigators.

The sturgeon jumped out of the water and struck Brianne, who was sitting on the starboard side of the boat. The fish knocked her unconscious, and the impact knocked her out of the boat. Witnesses reported that the fish was about 60 to 70 pounds, investigators said.

Her husband jumped into the water to rescue her, while his young son operated the 1998, 17-foot Silver King vessel. The two of them got her back on the boat and brought her to Manatee Springs State Park.

Megargel was transported to Shands Hospital in Gainesville by helicopter. She suffered multiple injuries.

This is the second reported sturgeon encounter for 2012. The first occurred near Rock Bluff on May 11, when an Old Town man was injured when he collided with a sturgeon that had jumped out of the Suwannee River in front of his boat.

The FWC is investigating the accident.



*“The old diamondback sturgeon came swimmin’ along
Minding his business one day”*

Primus, The Old Diamondback Sturgeon

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