

# FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

September 2012



# September 2012 Meeting

**When:** September 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM  
Southpoint Marriott

**Speaker:** David Lambert, MCI

**Topic:** Fly Fishing Northern Wisconsin - America's Great North Woods, Paul Bunyan Country, Nation's Best Fly Fishing Destination

**W**hoa, wait, what? Nation's best fly fishing destination? Are you serious?

S'truth! If you love fly fishing, Wisconsin is a much better, closer, cheaper and private, private, top-shelf venue than 'out west.'

Consider this: Wisconsin has more class 1 trout streams than any state



in the nation, with more than 5400 miles of clear, reproducing Class 1 streams. Most of these are in the state's North Central Highlands area. And, much of the state's prime fishing venue, The Great North Woods, is public land, owned by the state and accessible for fishing, as much as 85 percent of the prime fishing area. Add to that mix that the North Woods has 3,500 named lakes in a 35 square mile area, and that the state offers abundant hide-away fisheries, a local pub on every other corner, great brewing traditions and lots of people named Svenson.



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## On the Cover:

**It's the end of summer and the reds are on the grass flats!**

**Bill Lott with one of six a fine redbfish caught on a recent flood tide .**

**Photo by John Adams**

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# Tying the Tinkerbell

By Bart Isaac.

Chasing redfish on a flooded Spartina grass flat is one of those things that we fly fishers here in Northeast Florida are lucky to experience. These flooded flats are home to fiddler and mud crabs. The redfish on these flats are searching for crabs, just as we are searching for the redfish.

A tailing red is nice, but one “backing” through the grass is much more fun and perhaps a little easier to catch. However, there are those days with bright sun and light wind that make it difficult to land most weighted flies close to the fish without it spooking. For this reason, I have experimented with many different materials and styles of tying and designing a fly that lands softly.

A few years ago, I began playing around with a pattern that was simple to tie and landed softly. In fact, it landed so soft that FCFF club member Rich Palazzini, called it “Tinkerbell”. The name immediately stuck. This grass pattern is always in my fly box. I have used other materials than the Poly Bear, but I have found that this material is not buoyant and quickly sheds water, two attributes that allow it to land soft and quickly penetrate the surface film of the water upon landing. I and others have witnessed a red take this fly off of a blade of grass as the fly sat above and out of the water.

Follow along with these steps to learn how I tie this crab pattern.

## Material List:

- Hook:** Mustad 34007 #2  
**Weight:** Lead wire 0.25  
**Tail:** Antron Dubbing, color Black Gnat,  
Substitute could be Ice Dub UV  
Black by Hareline Dubbin, Inc.  
Two small grizzle hackles from  
Whiting Farms Bugger Pack  
**Body:** Black Poly Bear, dubbed with dubbing  
loop and clipped to shape  
**Weed**  
**Guard:** 20# Mason Hard Mono

## Step 1:

I modify the hook by bending the hook eye down

about 45 degrees. This step isn't necessary or possible with a forged hook, but I feel that it helps bury the hook on the strip strike. Begin the thread near the eye and work it back to a spot right under the point of the hook. Tie in a piece of lead, wrap it forward then fold it back onto itself, wrap the thread back past the lead. Next wrap the thread until it starts to go up the hook bend. Place about an inch or more of Antron dubbing on the thread, twist it and then wrap onto the hook to form a small ball.

## Step 2:

Tie in the grizzly hackle onto each side of the fly, allowing the antron ball that was dubbed to help separate the feathers. I like the hackle to extend up at about a 45 degree angle from the hook shank. Clip off the excess hackle.

## Step 3:

Cut a piece of Poly Bear about 4 to 5 inches long and the diameter of a pencil. Then cut the Poly Bear into sections that are about an inch long. Next, form a dubbing loop about 4 inches long. Place the Poly Bear inside the loop and spread out evenly from the fly to the dubbing loop tool. Twist the dubbing loop tool to lock the Poly Bear inside the loop.

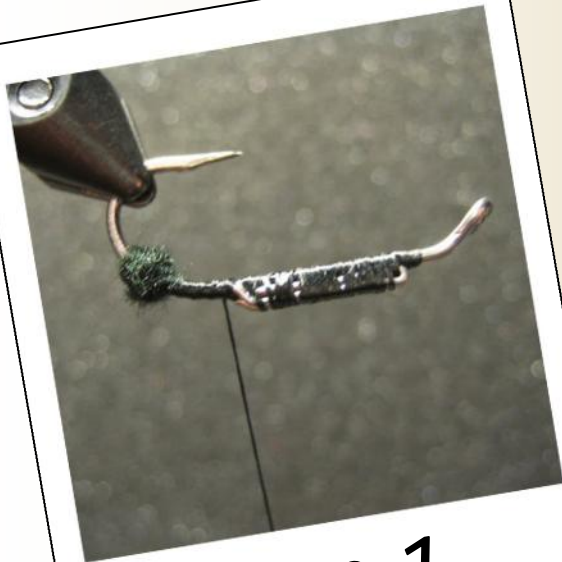
## Step 4:

Apply a small amount of super glue on the shank of the hook before wrapping the dubbing loop forward. Wrap the dubbing loop forward as you would when palmering a feather. Tie off the dubbing loop and whip finish.

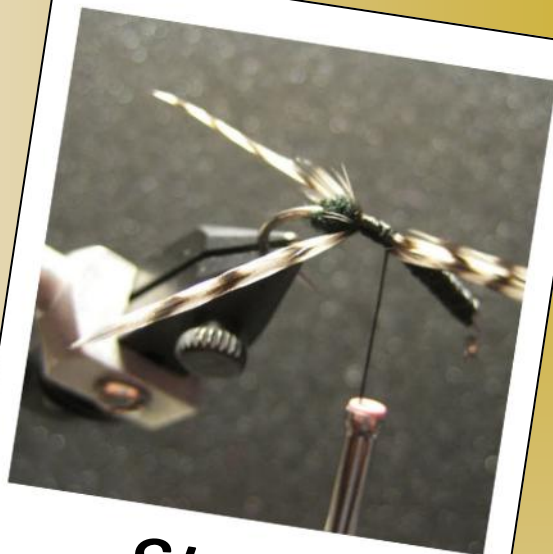
## Step 5:

Remove the hook from the vice and trim to shape. Trim flat on the top and bottom. Trim the sides as you would a Merkin. Note that this fly can be tied Merkin style if you are not familiar with dubbing loop construction.





*Step 1*



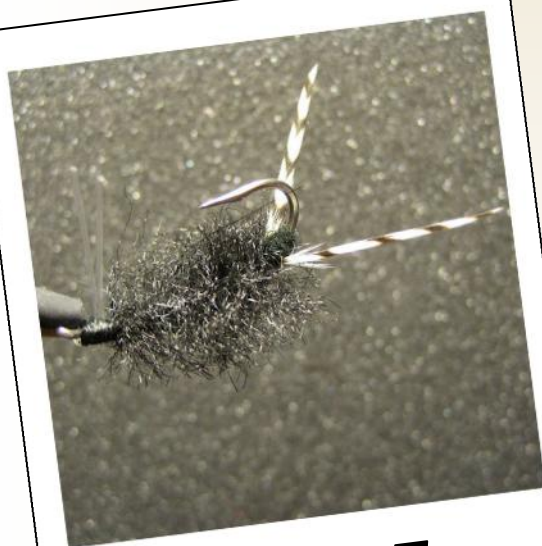
*Step 2*



*Step 3*



*Step 4*



*Step 5*



*Tinkerbell in  
Action*



# September Outing

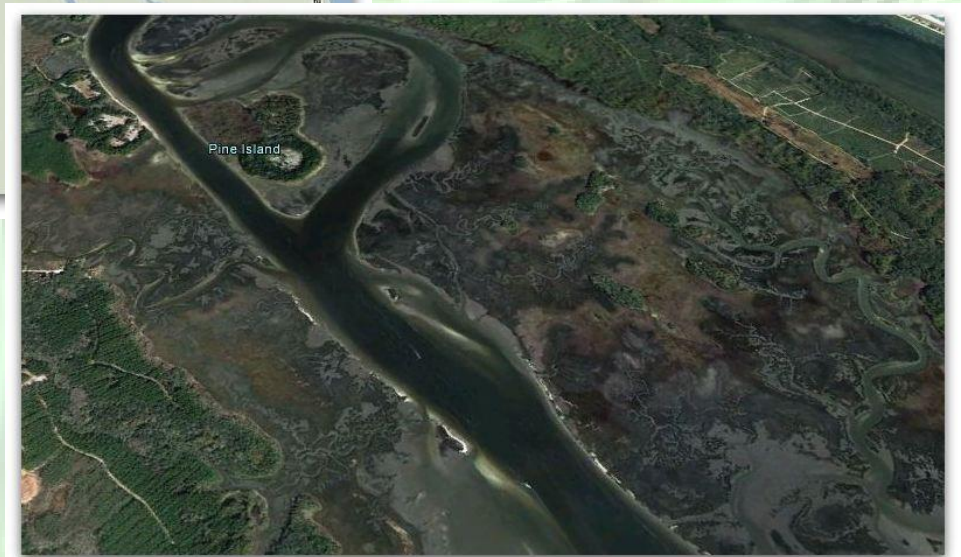
## Reds in the Grass

If you did not make the August outing for reds in the grass at Cedar Point you will have another chance to redeem yourself in September. On **Saturday, September 22** the Club will be targeting for redfish in the grass up and down Palm Valley. There is a 5.6 foot high tide at 1:43 pm at the Mayport Bar Pilot tide station on that day.

Unlike Cedar Point, where there is a small window of opportunity for sight fishing on the high tide, Palm Valley offers several hours of fishing as the tide moves northward from the St. Augustine Inlet to the Route 210 Bridge.

Given the amount of water to be covered during this outing power boats are a must. We will be meeting at the boat ramp at the Route 210 bridge. Once everyone has been paired up with a boat, we will head south down the Intracoastal Waterway, then fish the high tide as it makes its way north.

More information and a sign-up sheet will be available at the September 10th meeting. If you need additional information, contact Ryan Curley at: [rkcurley@yahoo.com](mailto:rkcurley@yahoo.com)



# FWC Elects New Chairman and Vice Chairman



At its meeting Thursday in Palm Beach Gardens, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission elected Vice Chairman Kenneth Wright to serve as Chairman, effective July 1.

"Ken's lifelong connection with the outdoors in Florida makes him a valuable resource to this Commission," said Commissioner Brian Yablonski. "He is invested in making sure that our next generation has the same opportunities that he has had to enjoy our wildlife heritage."

"I am honored to be elected to serve as Chairman of this dedicated group of Commissioners," said Wright. "All of us take this calling with great sincerity. Much lies at stake for the legacy we leave all Floridians."

The term of Chairman is one year. Wright, of Winter Park, has served on the Commission since August 2007.

After testimonials and praise highlighting her service as Chairman from her fellow Commissioners, Kathy Barco, of Jacksonville, was elected Vice Chairman.

"I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with Chairman Wright and my fellow Commissioners," said Barco. "As stewards of our fish and wildlife resources, the Com-



## New Randy Wayne White Book and Book Signing

The first title in Randy Wayne White's new book series featuring Florida fishing guide Hannah Smith goes on sale September 4th.

According to the authors website ([www.docford.com](http://www.docford.com)), Hannah Smith is a tall, strong, formidable Florida woman; the descendant of generations of strong Florida women, all known for their resourcefulness and a touch of the wildside. She lives on the Gulf Coast just across the bay from Sanibel Island, and when her uncle Jake dies, she takes over his fishing guide clients. She took over his other businesses too, a small investigative agency on the side, but she wasn't planning to do anything with that—until the day she helped a fishing client escape a brutal storm, and he made her an offer.

His niece, Olivia, has disappeared, and he's afraid she has gone off with a dangerous con artist. He's heard about the Smith women, he says, and he can see the stories are true. Can Hannah help find the girl?

Hannah can—but as she follows the trail, from the enclaves of the rich to the mangrove swamps of the Ten Thousand Islands, she discovers much more as well, not only about the missing girl, but about the vicious

predator who has seduced her.

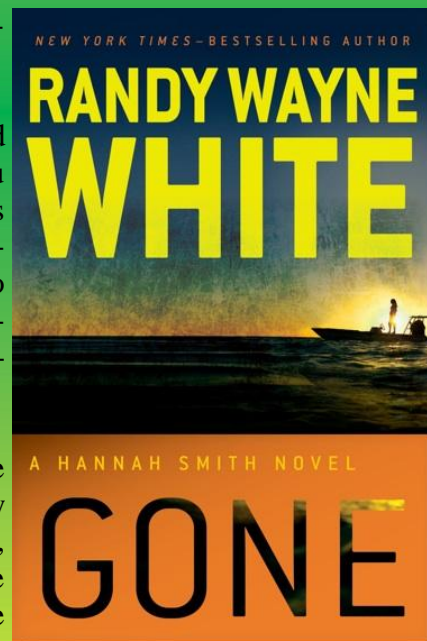
Her friend Doc Ford once told her, "If you surprise a dangerous man, expect to be surprised." She's about to find that out for herself...in an all too personal way.

Randy Wayne White has created many memorable characters, but this is one of the most remarkable. Once met, Hannah Smith will stay in your mind—and you will have to know "what comes next."

### Book Signing

Meet Randy at the BookMark in Neptune Beach on **Saturday, September 8 at 7:00 PM.**

The BookMark  
220 First Street, Neptune Beach, FL  
904-241-9026  
[www.bookmarkbeach.com](http://www.bookmarkbeach.com)





# THE GREAT PRISON PERMIT ESCAPE

BY CHAN RICHIE

I saw the distinct tail splash from 70 yards away. I headed in that direction. However, as I got closer I could see an odd small black creature swimming rapidly in wide circles. At 20 yards I could not tell what I was looking at? A rat maybe...or a very small baby raccoon? I moved closer.

Ready to cast, but still clueless as to what I was witnessing I studied it for a good 20 seconds. I heard three clear slurping sounds. Then the black object went down

**Two seconds into the battle I had already written the article to accompany the photo that would no doubt soon grace the cover of *Fly Fishing in Saltwater* magazine.**

and the huge striped back of a monster sheepshead arched up and rolled like the humped back of a sea-dragon. It raised high out of the water as it continued to circle on the surface...its back four inches out of the water and the tip of its tail far behind. I do not think I exaggerated by much when I said to myself, *That's a 2 footer. Do they ever get that long?*

I waited patiently for her to angle away from me. The wind-gods were with me as my cast sat down 14 inches from where she was going. One quick strip to keep the fly on the surface and she inhaled it! I struck the hook hard and the cold steel sent her screaming toward the creek.

Two seconds into the battle I had already written the article to accompany the photo that would no doubt soon grace the cover of *Fly Fishing in Saltwater* magazine. Four seconds into it I was recalling the proper landing regulations for an IGFA line class record. Six seconds into the battle I noticed a woman standing on the road, her knees quivering and her heart beating as she wondered if I were endowed in ways even more manly than fighting such a rare Leviathan. After the initial run she rolled up on her side about 30 yards away...it looked like a pinstriped hub cap from a 68 Dodge Coronet. I began to calculate my endorse-

ment royalties from Orvis (reel), Scientific Angler (line), and St Croix (rod).

Now 10 seconds into the battle I moved closer. She rolled and splashed hard....and the red Diachi hook came sailing back at me.

I was stunned. As my heart sank and the adrenalin subsided I replayed what I had seen. She had had only her dark head above the water as she was circling around slurping either crabs or snails off the grass. I have never seen a sheep act like this. It has been 6 years since I have landed a sheep. I am 1 for 4 on hooks-up....but I bet I never hook one like this one again. Another tale of the big one that got away.



**One that Didn't Escape**  
Photo by Long-Lost Member Rick Palazzini





# The 22nd Annual Northeast Florida CCA Banquet

**6:00 PM**  
**Thursday November 1, 2012**

*The Garden Club of Jacksonville*  
*1005 Riverside Drive*  
*Jacksonville, FL 32204*

**For Tickets or More Information Contact Dan Askin:**

**(321) 663-2588 or [daskin@ccaflorida.org](mailto:daskin@ccaflorida.org)**





# North American Fish Extinctions May Double by 2050

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** – From 1900-2010, freshwater fish species in North America went extinct at a rate 877 times faster than the rate found in the fossil record, while estimates indicate the rate may double between now and 2050. This new information comes from a U.S. Geological Survey study to be published in the September issue of the journal *BioScience*.

In the fossil record, one freshwater fish species goes extinct every 3 million years, but North America lost 39 species and 18 subspecies between 1898 and 2006. Based on current trends in threatened and endangered fish species, researchers estimate that an additional 53-86 species of freshwater fish may be extinct by the year 2050. Since the first assessment of extinct North American freshwater fishes in 1989, the number of extinct fishes increased by 25 percent.

"This study illustrates the value of placing current events into the context of deep geologic time, as rocks preserve an unbiased record of natural rates of processes before human activities began to alter the landscape, the atmosphere, the rivers, and oceans," said USGS Director Marcia McNutt. "Freshwater fish are a good choice for analysis as their bones make clear fossil impressions, and their lake and river environments produce excellent stratigraphic sequences."

The study's author, Noel Burkhead, used an established method to compare the rate of extinction found in the fossil record with modern rates.

"Estimates of freshwater fish extinctions during the twentieth century are conservative, because it can take 20-50 years to confirm extinction," said Burkhead, a research fish biologist for the USGS.

Extinction is a natural process, Burkhead explained, so examining its rate over a long geological timescale provides biologists with a benchmark for comparing current extinctions to background rate. The accelerated pace of extinction observed since the beginning of the twentieth century suggests human causes.

In North America, assessments of extinctions are conducted by the American Fisheries Society's Endangered Species Committee, using categories to factor in a lag time since the last observation of the species. The study used the categories "extinct" (species not seen for 50 years or more), "possibly extinct" (not been seen for 20 years or more), and "extinct in nature." All these categories require that searches for the missing fishes must have been made by knowledgeable biologists.

"It is extremely rare that the death of the last individual is documented by biologists," said Burkhead, "although it can happen when a fish only is found in a specific spring or caldera, and it dries up. That's what happened with five species of desert pupfishes and the Alberca silverside—the last known fish to go extinct in North America."



The Alberca silverside was found only in the Alberca Caldera, Guanajuato, Mexico; it went extinct when the caldera temporarily dried up in August 2006.

Surprisingly, Burkhead reported that 90-96 percent of fish extinctions in the fossil record were not linked to the five well-known mass extinctions. Natural causes of fish extinction are linked to transitions in landforms and continental watercourses over time, but many twentieth century extinctions were caused by dams, channelization of rivers, water pollution, and other human-induced factors.

The background rate of extinction is based on the fossil record, which includes information on when ancient fishes lived and how long species survived in the geological past. Burkhead used data on fish extinctions from well-known paleontologist Steven M. Stanley at the University of Hawaii.

"Another cause of extinction can be a change in a fish's food chain, which is what may have happened to the harelip sucker, a really cool fish that used to live in seven states throughout the Ohio River basin," said Burkhead. "It was a snail-eating specialist with cleft lips that used to pluck snails off river bottoms and manipulate the snail in its mouth in order to suck out the snail's soft parts, perhaps making little popping sounds. Sadly, snails are highly sensitive to excessive sedimentation and in the late nineteenth century, large amounts of topsoil were washing into rivers along with sewage and industrial effluents from cities. This likely caused snails to decline, which may have been what drove the fish to extinction."

Declines in freshwater fishes are only the "tip of the iceberg" for freshwater ecosystems, with mussels and snails experiencing declines greater than that of freshwater fishes.

The study, "Extinction Rates in North American Freshwater Fishes, 1900-2010," will be published in the September issue of the journal *BioScience*.

**Continued on Page 9**

A summary of data on extinct North American freshwater fishes is available online on the [Extinct North American Fishes website](#), which is updated by USGS and the AFS.

### Putting the numbers into perspective:

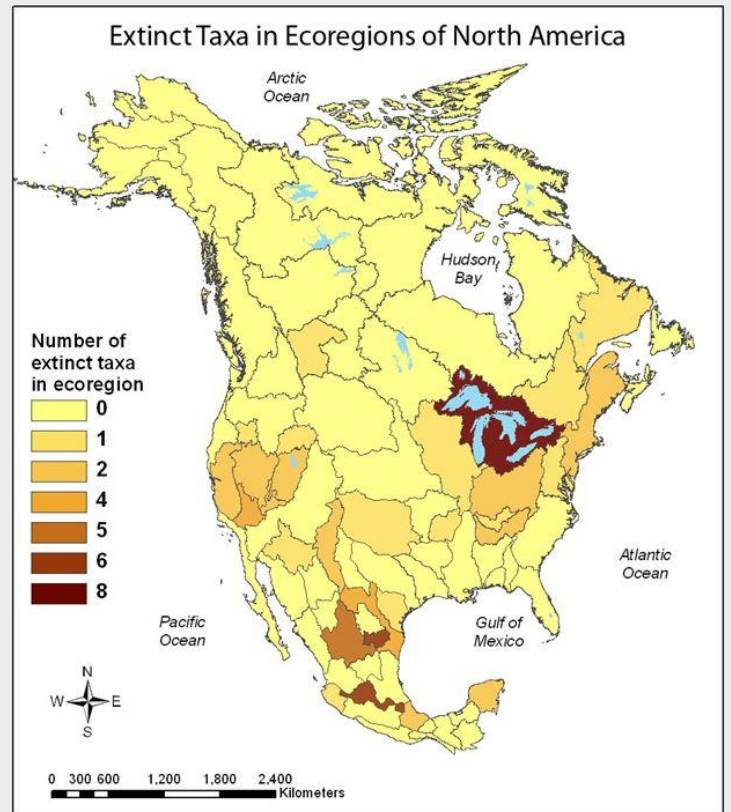
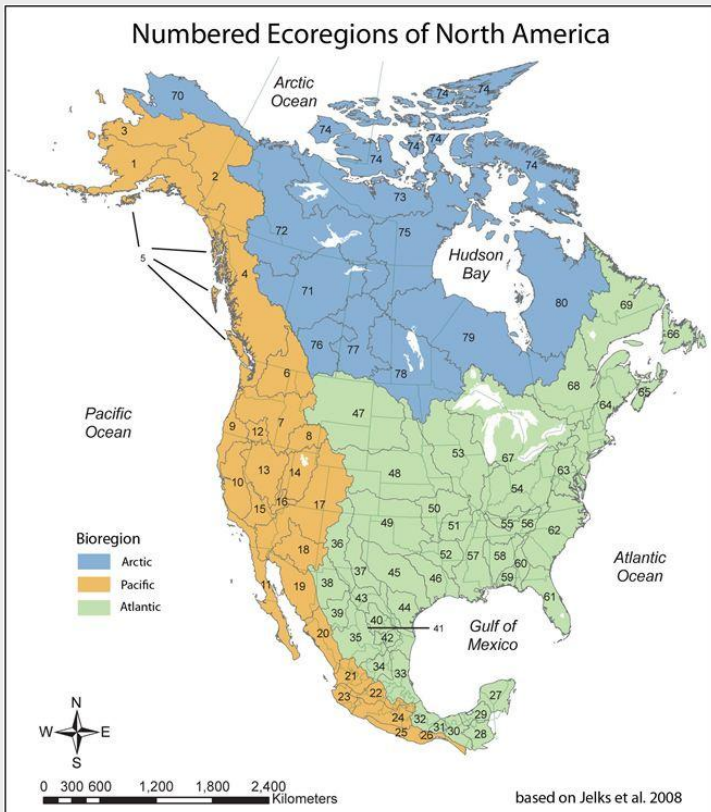
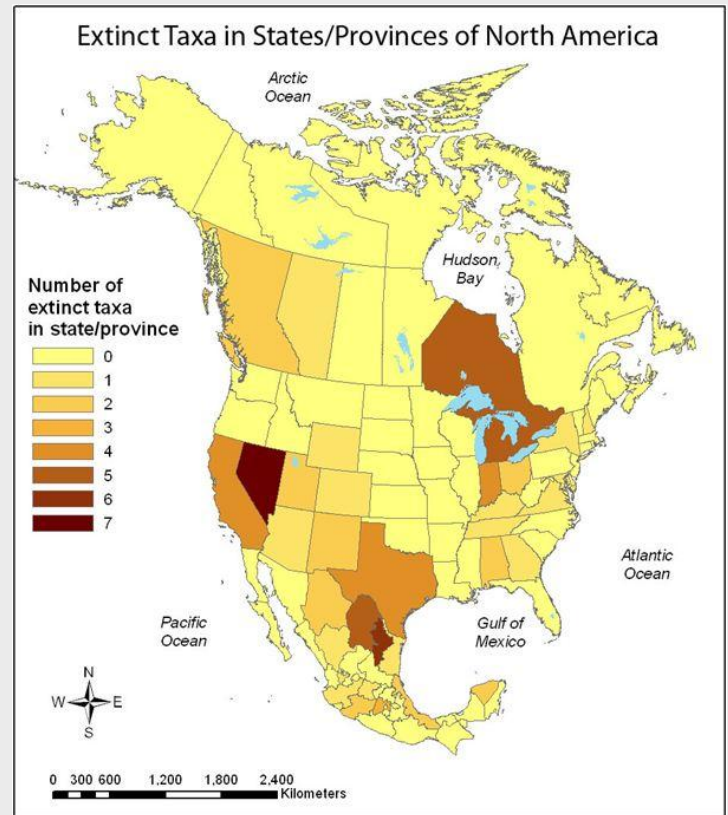
- **39** — Number of North American freshwater fish species confirmed as extinct from 1898 to present
- **1213** — Number of freshwater fish species found in North America up until 2010
- **3,000,000** — Average number of years between each fish extinction documented in the fossil record
- **2006** — Year that the most recent fish extinction was confirmed
- **31,769** — Total number of valid fish species described worldwide up until 2010
- **43** — Percent of the world's fish species that depend on freshwater habitats

The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

### Links:

[Extinct North American Freshwater Fishes Website](#)

[List of Extinct North American Fishes](#)





**ORDER NOW**

# FCFF SHIRTS



Front



Back

**T**he new FCFF Shirts are here!

Sport Tek, 100% polyester Dri Mesh Performance long sleeve shirts are now available for \$30 a piece. These shirts come in a variety of colors with an image of a Clouser Minnow and "The tug is the drug" on the left front breast and the FCFF logo on the back.

The Club hopes to be able to offer button-down shirts in the near future. More information about these shirts should be available at the September meeting.

If you are interesting in purchasing one of these performance shirts so that you can be the envy of the grass flats, contact Don Edlin by phone **904-261-4065**, or by email [dpedlin@comcast.net](mailto:dpedlin@comcast.net). When ordering, Don will need to know your shirt size and the color you want.

When you place your order, be sure to thank Don for coordinating everything.



*The Tug is the Drug*



# Where's Rob-o (and Buster)







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