

FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

May 2018



Educating, Restoring, Conserving through Fly Fishing

First Coast Fly Fishers May Highlights

Fishing Tampa Bay With Capt. Alissa Vinoski

Hopefully you were able to join us earlier this month when the Club welcomed Captain Alissa Vinoski to talk about fly fishing Tampa Bay. Alissa, who holds several IGFA World Records, is one of the top fly fishing guides on Florida's west coast.



"I can pinpoint the exact moment when my passion for fishing was sparked. I remember it like it was yesterday, even though I was a mere four years old when my Papa taught me how to catch mud minnows out of a ditch on the side of road in Beaufort, S.C.. From that moment forward, I was hooked. As a matter of fact, all I wanted to do for a few subsequent years was just catch bait. I finally figured out the point of catching bait by putting that poor little minnow on a line and sending him down to the depths."

Flash forward 24 years and you'll find that same girl still has the bug. Captain Alissa is an experienced saltwater angler, now residing in the Tampa Bay area, and she loves to share her passion for fly fishing with others. Alissa is a military brat and has lived all over the United States, but for the last 21 years, has spent the majority of her time from Coastal Virginia to the Florida Keys; being exposed to this region has fueled her love of fishing. Alissa started fishing around the same time she entered kindergarten, gathering much of her knowledge from her father and grandfather in Beaufort, South Carolina. What started as a favorite childhood activity has since culminated into a lifestyle she couldn't imagine herself without.

Alissa is a licensed United States Coast Guard Captain, and she runs a 2014 Beavertail Strike out of Tampa and the surrounding waters as a part-time guide, in search of primarily redfish, snook, trout and tarpon. Without a doubt, sight fishing with light tackle or a fly rod is one of her favorite pursuits. Her patient attitude provides her the ability to effectively teach beginners the techniques of casting a fly rod, catching bait, or working a lure, and how natural factors influence fish and their movement. On the flip side, she also appreciates the moments when she gets to watch an experienced angler place a perfectly casted fly or lure in front of a hungry fish. She is always seeking new fishing adventures and is looking forward to a lifetime of fishing.

On the Cover:

Nothing you do for children is ever wasted - Garrison Keilor
Carter Davis bass fishing at the Pondarosa.

Take a kid fishing

Photograph by: Luke Davis

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FIVE TIPS FOR BEACH SNOOK

BY MIKE HODGE

It's almost May. It's Florida, and it's about get hot as spring is preparing to yield to summer's swelter. It's a little too early for tarpon and too late for redfish. Nevertheless, inshore fishermen have a viable option — snook on the beach.

From early May through late August, snook roam the surf on both coasts of the Sunshine State, providing anglers an excellent opportunity for sight fishing. It's not as exciting as bonefish in the Bahamas, but it's an affordable, fun way to spend summer mornings. Below are a few tips to help you get started.

GEOGRAPHY

Beach snook is largely a Florida affair. The linesider can be found on both coasts of the state in the spring and summer as the sporting fish leaves the passes in search of baitfish along the beach. Buyer beware: You won't find many sight-fishing opportunities on the beach north of Tampa or Fort Pierce.

Snook need warm water. Anglers need calm, flat surf. Both are available in the southern parts of Florida. Top spots on the gulf coast are Honeymoon Island and Fort DeSoto (Tampa/St. Petersburg), Casey Key (Sarasota) and Sanibel (Fort Myers area). On the Atlantic side, Hobe Sound and Bathtub Beach near Stuart are worth

the trip to the Treasure Coast.

THE RIGHT CONDITIONS

As with any form of sight fishing, the sun, wind and surf all have to work in concert for prime visibility. You want the sun at your back. That means an early start on the west coast; and a later start on the east coast. I start around 8:30 or so in Tampa and around 11 in Jupiter and Stuart. You can fish later, but may have to dodge afternoon thunderstorms.

With the wind, you want an east wind on the gulf side; and a west wind on the atlantic. Both scenarios help flatten the surf and make casting a little easier. Ideally, I like the wind 10 miles an hour less.

Even more important is the height of the surf. Waves of a foot or less make it easier to see the fish. Waves of 1-2 feet are manageable. Anything bigger than that leads to a lot of bind casting. [Surfline](#) is one of the best sources to evaluate these conditions.

POSITIONING

Beach snook fishing requires a lot of walking but little wading. Stay on the sand as much as possible. You'll



scare fewer fish.

Scan the surf. Look where the secondary waves form and break. Fish use the waves for cover, or they merely wait for the wave to break and try to pin the bait — mullet and pinfish — along the trough. Most of the fish will be in mere inches of water — ankle to knee deep. To ensure better visibility, wear a hat with a wide brim with a quality pair of polarized sunglasses.

FLIES

I like to keep things simple. I use two main flies — [Lefty Kreh's](#) Deceiver and Norm Zeigler's Schminnow — and have caught scads of fish on sizes 1, 2 and 4. The Schminnow is easy to tie. The Deceiver is more time consuming at the vise, but a classic that almost always produces in darker colors. It is one of my all-time favorites.

EQUIPMENT

I use two different rods — an 8-weight on the gulf coast and a 10-weight on the east coast. The reason? Atlantic snook are bigger and it's not unusual to run into a tarpon on the beach on that side of the state. My favorite TFO rod is the [Axiom II](#). It's sturdy yet smooth. The same could be said for the [Power Reel](#), which is sexy but very serviceable under difficult saltwater conditions.

Wind and waves constantly tug at your fly line. A stripping basket is a must.

You can either use a floating line or an intermediate line. If the surf is a tad high, I use the intermediate. It's a matter of personal preference.

Leaders are simple — 5 feet of 40-pound mono attached with a blood knot to 4 feet of 20 or 30-pound fluorocarbon.

For conventional gear, I like the 7-foot [GIS Inshore](#), an ideal rod for blind casting when conditions don't allow for sight fishing. Regardless of your weapon of choice, beach snook are a blast.

Thoughts? If you have additional tips, feel free to comment below or drop us a line on social media.

Editors Note: This article originally appeared on the Temple Fork Outfitters Blog: <https://tforods.com/beachsnook17906-2/>



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My Mom Vala



Here is a little video for all the mother fishers in the Club. YETI highlights angler Vala Arnadottir as she balances time between being a fly fishing guide in Greenland and a mom to a young daughter.

Vala's family owns and operates one of the oldest sporting outfitters in Iceland, Lax-A Angling Club. According to Vala, *I was born on prime time of the salmon season in Iceland in 1988, at the same time as my parents leased their first ever salmon river. The season of 1988 turned out to be a bonanza year for fishing! Since then you could say I have been hooked and my parents business blossoming turning Lax-a into the biggest sporting outfitter in Iceland and Greenland and organizing trips around the globe... I hope to encourage women and the young generation to spend more time outdoors and in nature. But most of all, I love to see people happy and make them smile.*

To watch the video, click on the picture above or type the following link into your internet browser: <https://youtu.be/ERjQ7hcVxus>

Fly Fishing in the Red Hills Region of South Georgia and North Florida

A Biological Perspective

Text and Photographs by Tom H. Logan

I have the opportunity to visit with many fishermen at our local lakes and find that most know a little about fly fishing. A few even tell me they own a fly rod they intend to use some day. But many of those fly rods are left at home, in part, because of the perception that fly fishing is for trout in the mountains or on an expensive trip to the Florida Keys to catch world-class tarpon or bonefish. What few realize is that we have some of the best warm water fly fishing that can be found right here in the Red Hills and Big Bend area of south Georgia and north Florida. You would be hard pressed to find another region with the variety of waters, diversity of fish species and fishing opportunities that occur during every month of the year in our area.

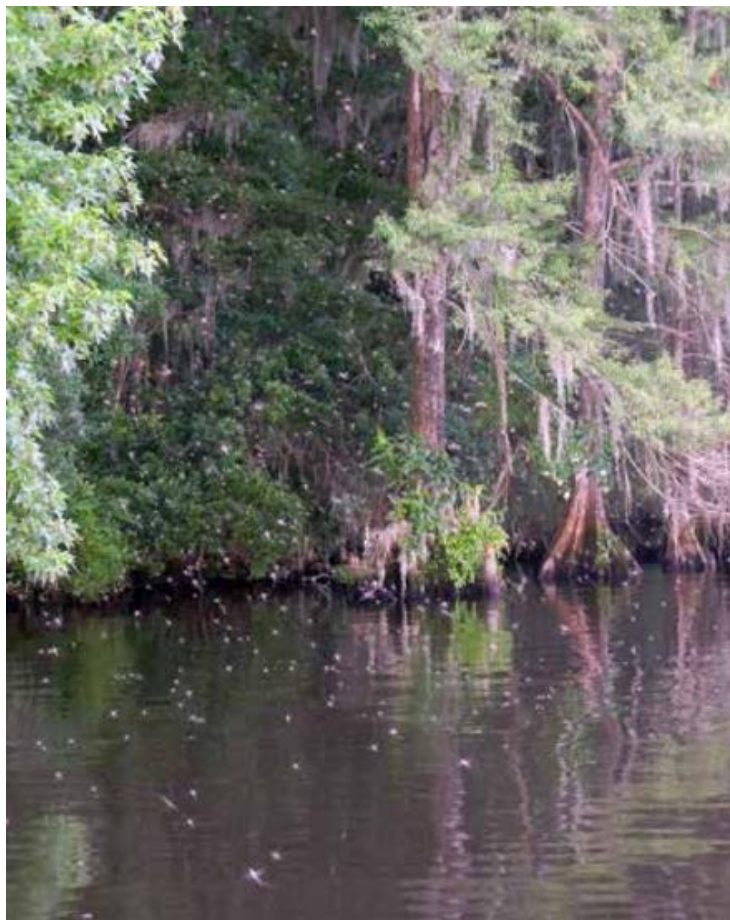
The waters that occur in the Red Hills around Thomasville, Georgia and extend all the way through the Big Bend area to the Gulf of Mexico host natural wetlands that generally comprise lakes, marshes, rivers and streams. Many natural lakes of sizes that range from a few acres to thousands are scattered throughout the Red Hills. Lake Talquin that was constructed on the Ocklockonee River in 1927, for hydro-electric power, is one of the two large impoundments constructed in the area. The other is Lake Seminole that formed when construction of Woodruff Lock and Dam was completed in 1952, where the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers come together to form the Apalachicola River. Those are the larger rivers of note, but somewhat unique to the area are the many smaller streams that flow from springs and seeps below the Red Hills into the Gulf of Mexico, each with their individual differences and fish species. And of course, small ponds have been constructed and stocked with fish through-out the Red Hills. The growing season is long in these biologically rich systems and they support fisheries and fly fishing opportunities that are as diverse as the systems themselves.

Locals typically use crickets and worms or “crank baits” to catch their share of fish in these warm waters, but it may surprise you to find that many of the dry and especially wet flies that have caught trout around the world for hundreds of years are remarkably effective patterns for taking southern bream, black bass and other fish. A little knowledge of the biological factors that govern the lives of these fish, their growth and repro-

duction, may suggest why.

The lakes and streams of the area do have similarities because they generally are of the same geographic region and rainfall. But factors that include size, depth, bottom shape, and width; whether they are shaded by local forests, are still water (lake) or flowing (stream); spring fed or laterally flow through a forested watershed; and whether they are tidally influenced, as is the case of the freshwater streams that flow into the Gulf, do affect the abundance and diversity of plant and animal life these systems support.

The bream species that live in the natural lakes predominantly include bluegill and fliers (the locals call them flyer bream) with warmouth and shellcrackers occasionally taken. They also support an abundance of large-



Willow flies (*Hexagenia limbata*) emerge from Lake Talquin.





mouth bass. These species are members of the sunfish family Centrarchidae. Black crappie also are a favorite fish to catch, especially during winter months, and don't underestimate the challenge of landing the primitive bowfin on a small baitfish pattern and light fly rod. Species of bream typical in the area stream and river systems are the spotted and redbreast sunfish with an occasional bluegill taken from deeper waters. Redbreasts are called "river bream", and the spotted sunfish a "stumpknocker" by locals. Stumpknockers often hold near stumps and knees of the cypress trees that dominate the forest edge along these flowing streams; they are voracious little fighters on the fly, thus the name. Although largemouth black bass do occur in these streams, most interesting is the fact that locally distinct species of bass, that include Suwannee and shoal bass, occur somewhat exclusively in the respective stream systems where they apparently evolved. This is likely because many of these relatively short streams originate distinctly from unique water sources near the Florida/Georgia state lines and terminate at the Gulf with little or no natural opportunity for fish to interact among these individual systems. Any interaction that has occurred is likely due to fishermen carrying and releasing live fish from one system to another for various reasons. Obviously, water temperatures and clarity are important to the fish that are endemic to each of these systems. Temperatures do cool in area lakes from November through March during our temperate winters. The bream and bass spend more time in the depths during this period and are not as responsive to flies at or near the surface. But winter is when take of crappie can get exciting on small baitfish patterns, such as Deceivers predominantly in white. Interestingly though, most of our small streams or rivers are heavily influenced by the springs that feed them. The spring waters come out of the ground relatively warm throughout the year, and some of these streams never cool below 65 degrees during winter. Therefore, the fish and the foods they eat remain active so that these spring fed streams and rivers



are fishable throughout the winter months. I've caught stump-knockers in the Wacissa River during winter under the water surface as though it was summer—while the air temperature was freezing and ice formed in the guides on my rod. The plant communities in these aquatic systems, though, are key to their fish abundance and the diversity they support. We as fishermen generally understand that plants and other structure provide habitat for fish to hide from predators and feed, and where young fish survive to eventually become breeders. So, this is where we usually fish for them. Those of us who have ever fished over a bream bed also know that sunfish, both bream and bass, require shallow sandy or gravelly bottoms for spawning in open areas of vegetation.

Biological Perspective

Just as plants provide habitat for fish, plant communities are perhaps even more important as habitat for the natural foods fish depend upon for survival, growth and reproduction. Freshwater fish generally eat aquatic insects, small crustaceans, macroinvertebrates and smaller fish throughout the world. This is as true for a brown trout in an Irish stream, or a golden trout in the Sierras, as for a bluegill or bass in our local warm waters. Many



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Largemouth bass are abundant in all our local waters and readily take flies that imitate their natural foods.

species of aquatic insects are specific in the plant species, woody structure or bottom type they occupy as habitat, just as are the many species of birds and mammals that occur in the different cover types where we find them. Those of us who hunt or watch birds learn where to look for certain species and where not to look, because we have some understanding of their habitat relationships. This also applies to aquatic insects; so, wetland systems that support abundant and diverse plant communities likewise will support insect populations of high numbers and species diversity as food for fish. Aquatic insects, in their respective life forms, are especially important in the diets of fish, and the mayflies and caddisflies are just as important to fish in Florida as they are to trout in Rocky Mountain streams.

The fact that mayflies and caddisflies occur and are important food items for fish in this area may be surprising to some, but true. More than 80 species of mayflies and 200 species of caddisflies have been documented to occur in Florida waters, but we seldom see them emerg-

ing as dramatically in the Southeastern United States as is typical of the western rivers and streams. This probably is because our wetland systems are vast and our growing seasons long and the ecological need to emerge in a hurried way is not necessary for insect survival in our temperate climate. More typical in our area is to see a tiny baetis occasionally rise as a single individual, a cinnamon sedge skitter across the water in fall, or notice a single caddis out of the corner of our eye on the brim of our cap. A few exceptions exist though, that include two of the larger species of mayflies that occur in the Red Hills and Big Bend area. These are the willow fly (*Hexagenia limbata*) and a large white mayfly (*Tortopsis puella*). Both do emerge in impressive numbers at specific times during the summer months. Emerging is when an immature insect rises generally from the water bottom, up through the open water column to the surface, where it then molts as an adult with wings, to fly away from the water to breed. The *Hexagenia* emerges at first light through morning hours, while the *Tortopsis* emerges at the very last light of day, usually to have bred, returned to the water to lay eggs and died by next morning. These species are burrowers in their immature forms, their body lengths alone can exceed one inch; fishing fly pattern imitations that include the White Wulff or Western Coachman, when the adults are emerging and drying their wings on the surface, can be very exciting. The *Hexagenia* typically occurs in still waters along the shorelines of Lakes Talquin and Seminole. The *Tortopsis* occurs where water is moving and clay banks are present for burrowing of immatures like along the Wacissa, Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers; although, I have observed one *Tortopsis* individual on Lake Talquin, likely from a clay-banked feeder stream.

So how does all this apply to our fly selection and the way we fish them for bream and bass? Clearly, we could do as most locals would and fish a cricket, or a minnow struggling under a cork, or even fish a Mepps spinner and catch plenty of fish. We also could fish a popping bug effectively with a fly rod. But, we think



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Western Coachman fly and a redbreast caught on Western Coachman

more biologically when we fish for trout; so, why wouldn't we prepare in the same way for bream and black bass? We approach the trout stream, analyze where a fish is likely holding and then tie on a fly that we anticipate will mimic the natural insect the fish is waiting to eat. Perhaps we've seen an insect on the water. Logic would suggest a similar approach could be productive for our warm water fish, and I can assure you that it is. I've worked a career as a professional wildlife biologist, and generally think of this as a biological approach to fly fishing, regardless of whether fishing cold or warm water.

I always think of water, and more importantly the plants and other structure under the surface, as fish habitat and I put my fly where I think a big bluegill probably is waiting for an easy meal. But I select the flies I fish from an understanding of predator prey relationships. All animals, whether fish, mammal or bird, must eat for survival and successful reproduction. This is fundamental to perpetuation of their species. While some are grazers and others predators, game fish around the world generally are predators, which means they eat other vertebrate and invertebrate animals to survive. This reality certainly applies to our southern bream and bass. The importance of this to fly selection is that there are two selection criteria that are very important to predator survival. Their prey must be abundant and it must be readily available in those numbers for the fish to not expend more energy foraging than it consumes. And when you apply this concept to the most abundant and available forms of aquatic insects, which are important prey of fish around the world whether cold or warm water it is the emerging insect life forms and adults, while on the water surface, which most fulfill these two criteria. Whether we think about it in this context or not, this is why we fish the popular dry patterns, in addition to the

fact that it is exciting when a nice fish explodes on the surface fly. But, it is the historic wet patterns that are even more effective, because they more so mimic the perfect prey form that is essential to fish survival.

Few fly fishermen tie or fish the wet patterns any more, but I can assure you that I catch my share of the bream and bass that occur in the Big Bend waters on wet patterns. These include the Irish Invicta, Fiery Brown and Green Peter, the Welch Coch-a-bon-ddu, Iron Blue Dun, Partridge, and Orange and other soft-hackle patterns; and of course the Old Gray Mare and Western Coachman. This is why a Partridge and Orange that was first tied for taking brown trout in the North Country of England perhaps 400 years ago is also an excellent pattern for taking big bluegill in our natural local lakes. The pattern is a perfect imitation of an abundant and available prey form rising up through the open water column, as are the others I mention. The White Wulff and Talquin Sedge; although not as historic, are very good surface patterns, and the Deceiver and Wacissa are streamer patterns on which I take largemouth, Suwannee and other species of black bass.

I'm often asked whether I "match the hatch" — I don't. I've also been asked if insects actually occur around Tallahassee that look like the Irish Invicta or Old Gray Mare — they don't. I fish patterns that more generally mimic insect life forms, color tones and behavior, rather than imitate exact species-specific details. I often wonder what a fish thinks when it sees some of the flies I fish, but let a big bass take a size 14 Invicta and turn like a wild horse, or watch a big bluegill push a wake from under a lily pad to take an Old Gray Mare and the excitement of the moment makes the question somewhat unimportant. Lakes Jackson, Hall, Iamonia, Carr, Talquin and Seminole are all very good fly fishing ven-



ues, but my favorite is Lake Miccosukee, just to the east of Tallahassee. Miccosukee is a natural lake named after the Native American tribe of the Seminole Nation that once occupied the area. The lake is shallow, highly organic with floating islands and dark water; much of its surface is covered with the large leaves of water lilies and lotus the locals call “bonnets.” Lake Miccosukee, although larger than some, is typical of the many natural lakes in Florida. It is rich with aquatic life and fly fishing can be spectacular.

Fishing on Miccosukee and other similar area lakes is most productive during the early and late hours of the day, but my preference is to be on the lake before first light of morning. That’s a good time to be on the water, when the only sounds are pig frogs visiting with one another, an occasional alligator can be heard taking a big

bowfin and a bluegill sucking an insect off the surface. The birds soon begin singing, and I sometimes enjoy seeing them as much as catching another fish. Although I fish all the patterns I’ve mentioned, my fly of choice is

often the Western Coachman. I make my first cast to the edge of a lily at the first hint of light, and I let the fly sit on the surface for a few seconds. I twitch it a bit and if it hasn’t disappeared down the mouth of a bream, I start stripping it in short strips sub-surface for six to eight feet. The retrieve ends with a gentle lift of the fly through the water column to make my next cast. It is during this lift when the fly is often taken if not before. So, I fish the Coachman during each cast as a dry, stripe it as an insect or small fish moving laterally in the water column, and then lift it as an emerging immature insect rising to the surface. I usually apply a small amount of silicon dressing in the wing, so the fly will stay dry, and on or in the surface film, until it gets wet enough to sink 8 to 12 inches below the surface with gentle strips. This gives me a better perspective for how fish are responding the fly. They seem to take the fly on the surface some days, while sub-surface on others.

I generally fish all patterns the way I describe for the Western Coachman. However, I fish the White Wulff only dry on the surface, and if fish appear to be taking the Western mostly on the surface, I will add floatant as needed to keep it floating. I fish the Talquin Sedge and Coch-a-bon-ddu, with just a little floatant in the wing to keep them in the film. The Old Gray Mare is fished identically to the Western, but I fish wet patterns like the

Invicta and Fiery Brown by stripping them purposefully under the surface and then lifting them as an emerger. The Deceiver and Wacissa are stripped to imitate a bait fish swimming laterally under the surface. I often fish

soft-hackles like the Partridge and Orange by themselves or as a dropper under a Western Coachman. I typically let a soft-hackle sink a few feet when fished as a single fly and then lift it as an emerger for the take. Each pattern is fished on our rivers and streams similar to that on lakes, except that stream currents provide movement of the fly.

I’ve fished other similar dry and wet patterns with success, but the patterns I mention above are those that seem to best satisfy the predator feeding criteria I describe. Weighted nymph patterns that sink deeper will be taken when fish are staying deep, and small poppers



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are always productive for bream, as are larger surface patterns for bass when they come to the surface. But, I enjoy fishing the patterns I do and perhaps most importantly, I have confidence that I'll usually catch fish when I fish them. There also is something satisfying about catching a big, copper-headed bluegill on a pattern that was designed several hundred years ago for taking trout in another part of the world. So, add a little biological perspective to your fly fishing for bream and bass and give some of the historic patterns a try. Logic would suggest that if they're still around after 400 years, they are probably still a good choice for catching your next fish.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR –

Tom H. Logan is a retired certified wildlife biologist

Rob Report

By Rob Benardo

May 3, 2018 - I put in around 3PM in windy conditions to fish the afternoon dropping and the 1st part of the incoming tide which was going to happen right around sunset; ideal conditions. The fish were everywhere. It was amazing to see so many fish. We live in an excellent fishery. I have been getting around a little and there is nothing in Florida as good as the red fishing in the Timucuan Preserve.

Conditions : The water is crystal clear and the fish are still schooled up. They are feeding on shrimp but I caught all my fish on a black clouser. I don't think it matters what you use when they are feeding like they were last night. The fish are schooled up holding on the oyster bars, some are grouped up backing in the low water and others are crashing bait against the banks. Important to move slowly and quietly, good luck.



from Tallahassee, Florida who specialized for more than 47 professional years in the research, recovery and management of threatened and endangered wildlife species. He enjoys tying classic trout patterns and fishing them for southern bream and bass in his home waters, as well as for trout in the Smoky Mountains, Sierras and other streams of the western U.S. Tom teaches fly tying classes in Tallahassee. He is the creator and manager of North Florida Fly-fishing Adventures and School dedicated to teach fly tying, casting and fishing activities that enhance the fly-fishing experience for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. His website is www.northfloridaflyfishing.com.

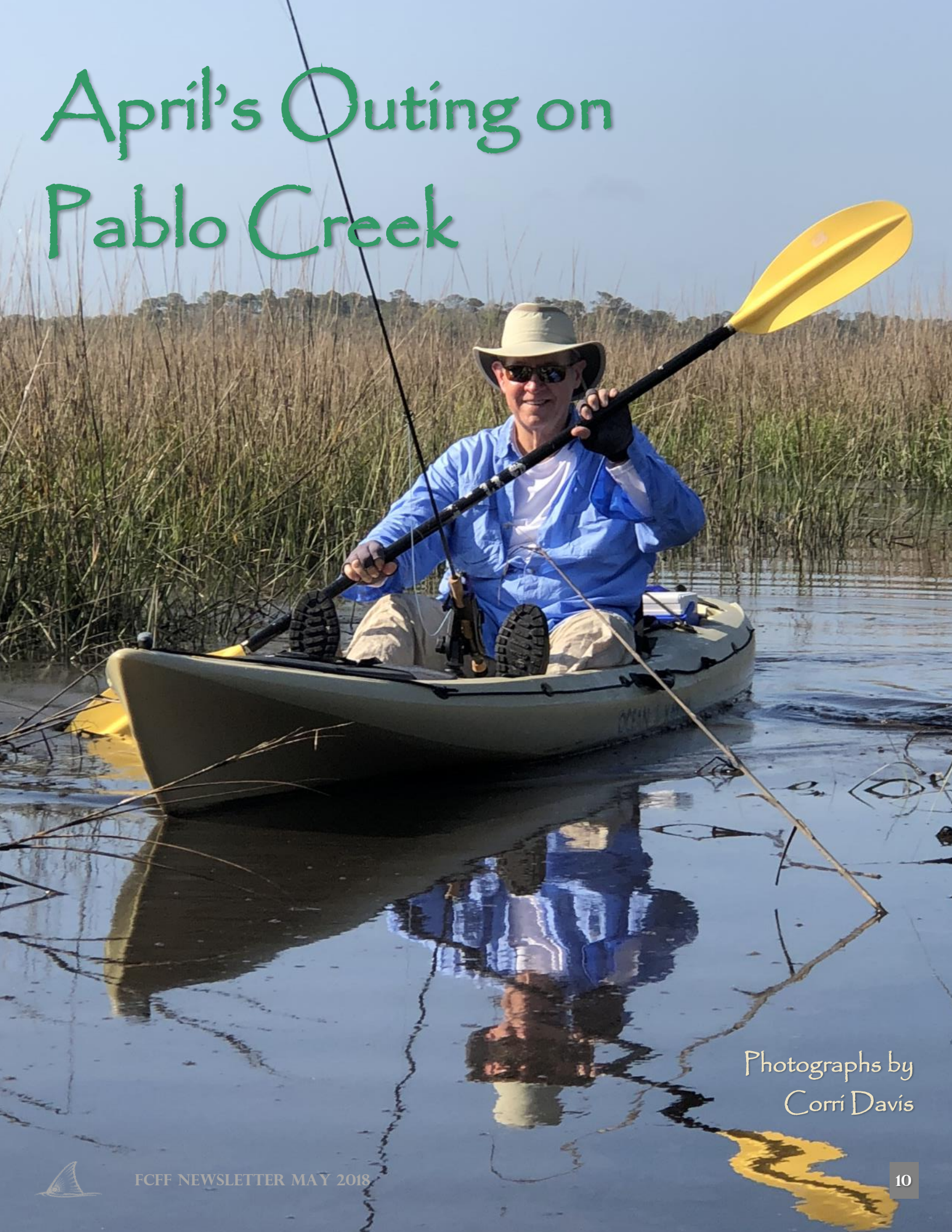
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April's Outing on Pablo Creek



Photographs by
Corri Davis







Tying the Deceiver

By Tom Logan

The Deceiver is a very versatile streamer pattern that is intended to imitate a small bait fish that will be attractive as prey for larger predatory fish. It typically is tied with lighter colors of feathers and buck tail with a little flash, but it can be tied with any combination of colors and in any size from on size 10 bronze hooks for bream to 2/0 stainless steel hooks and larger for saltwater species. The techniques for tying this pattern are generally those that are used for tying many of the other saltwater patterns. Weight can be added with dumbbell and bead-chain eyes or other weights to fish the pattern deep or it can be fished shallow with no weight other than the hook.

Materials List:

Hook: Daiichi 472, Size 10 – 2/0

Thread: Black Danville's Fly-Master Waxed, 6/0 or 3/0

Wing: Two Whiting Farms White or Grizzly Rooster Feathers, two strands of Crystal Flash Doubled, White and Chartreuse Buck Tail and Brown Buck Tail or Peacock Herl on top

Body: Silver Mylar Tinsel, Medium with Wire Rib

Head: Black Thread/Head Cement

Tying Instructions:

Tie the Deceiver as follows:

1. Bend the barb down as the hook is placed in the vise and start the thread directly behind the hook eye. Wrap the thread towards rear in side by side or touching wraps, counter spinning the thread to flatten. Wrap thread to approximately 2 eye widths behind the eye and leave thread hanging. This becomes the tie-in point for all materials and is where the back of the head begins.
2. (Optional) Tie-in 6 inch length of Mylar tinsel where thread hangs with three touching thread wraps towards hook bend. Wrap Mylar rearward in touching wraps to approximately mid-way on shank between the barb and point of hook. Reverse and wrap Mylar forward in touching wraps back to where the thread hangs and tie-off Mylar under shank with three forward and touching wraps. Cut Mylar tag under shank and leave thread hanging.



3. Select two hackle feathers and hold them in fingers of left hand with tips matching and top to top. Remove barbs from both sides of both feather shafts while holding the matched feather tips by left fingers. Leave barbs on the tips of the hackles at a length that is approximately 1.5 the length of the hook shank (eye to barb or hook bend). Hold paired feathers between left fingers at the point where the barbs remain and others have been removed. Tips should be even and the two hackle feathers should be top to top with tips flaring. The point where the barbs begin becomes the tie-in point for the hackles. Hold the paired hackles between the left thumb and middle finger with hackles horizontal to hook shank and barbs vertical. Place the paired hackles on top of the hook shank with the tie-in point of the hackles on top of where the thread is hanging. Make one soft thread wrap over the hackle shafts and pull upward to tighten slightly and make two more wraps forward and touching in the same manner. Leave the thread hanging and release hold on the hackles to see if they lay horizontal and with barbs vertical. The hackles may be adjusted for position by holding them by the tips and ends of the bare shafts and changing their position by shifting the tips and shafts slightly for side to side. Make three more forward and touching thread wraps



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when satisfied with position, cut remaining stubs of shafts, wrap thread to hook eye and then wrap in touching wraps rearward to original tie-in point. Do not wrap past or behind the original thread wrap.

4. Tie two strands of Crystal Flash with three forward and touching thread wraps, double over and wrap thread rearward in three touching wraps to tie-in point. Crystal Flash ends should be cup at approximately one half inch beyond hackle tips.
5. Cut sparse bunch of white buck tail and generally even tips by holding butts in right fingers and grasping the longer tips in fingers of left hand. Pull long tips from bunch and then overlap both bunches to generally even tips. The tips do not need to match perfectly. Hold bunch in left fingers and cut butts, leaving bunch approximately the length from eye to bend of hook. Hold bunch in left fingers with tips just showing, hold under shank where thread hangs with butts short of eye, make three forward gentle wraps by pulling thread downward with each wrap, continue touching thread wraps to eye and then back to tie-in point.
6. Cut a second sparse bunch of white buck tail, generally even tips as in Step 5, cut to a length that will extend to approximately half way between hook bend and tips of hackles. Hold bunch in left fingers at tie-in point and wrap thread forward in touching turns to eye and back to tie-in point as in Step 5.
7. Cut sparse bunch of chartreuse buck tail, even, cut to length and tie in on top of white buck tail as in Step 6.
8. Cut sparse bunch of dark buck tail or two peacock herl barbs, cut to length and tie in on top of chartreuse buck tail as in Step 7.
9. Wrap thread in touching turns forward and rearward over the head until all hair butts are covered, finish with wraps to back of head, whip finish forward and seal with head cement.



**NEW BLACK CREEK
TEE-SHIRTS ARE IN!
STOP BY AND GET
YOURS TODAY!**





“I am not against golf, since I cannot suspect it keeps armies of the unworthy from discovering trout.”

Paul O'Neil
Fly Fisherman

New Book By Capt. John Kumiski

The Indian River Lagoon Chronicles- A Narrative Paddle Adventure Through the History and Natural History of the Indian River Lagoon, a new book by John Kumiski, delves into the fascinating history and natural history of the Indian River Lagoon.

On December 1, 2013, five intrepid paddlers launched their vessels at JB's Fish Camp in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Their destination? Jupiter, Florida, 160 miles distant. During their nineteen day voyage of discovery they travel the length of the Indian River Lagoon, meeting birds, snails, manatees, and mangroves, dolphins, scientists, restaurateurs, and seagrasses, other paddlers, the ghost of Henry Flagler, and much more.

Into the tale of their journey is woven the forgotten history of the people who lived along the lagoon's banks-Indians, soldiers, settlers, agriculturalists, fishermen, treasure hunters, entrepreneurs, dredgers and many others.

"The story of the Indian River Lagoon, one of Florida's most fantastic natural resources, needed to be told," said author John Kumiski. "What better way to tell it than by using a paddle adventure as a narrative thread to bind it all together?"

Relive their journey between the covers of The Indian River Lagoon Chronicles- A Narrative Paddle Adventure Through the History and Natural History of the Indian River Lagoon, a wonderful book!

What They're Saying About This Book-

"It is the best book that you have done. I have started a blog about it!"

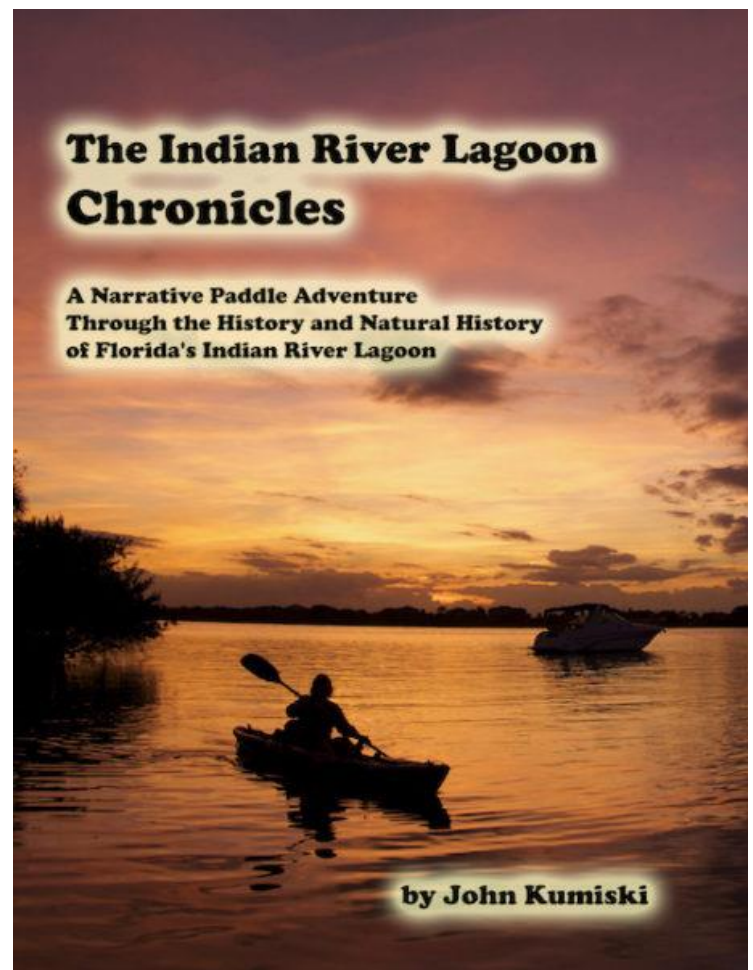
- Rodney Smith

"Wow ! really enjoyed the read. You did a fantastic job of catching the spirit and adventure of the trip. I especially enjoyed the historical notes along the way. At the end I had tears in my eyes..."

- Darryl "Bones" Benton

Copies of the book can be ordered through John's web site for \$19.95 plus tax and shipping: <http://www.spottedtail.com/indian-river-lagoon-chronicles/>

Get your copy today!



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Atlantic Snook to Close in State and Federal Waters

The recreational harvest of snook in Atlantic state and federal waters will close on June 1. Snook is also currently closed for harvest in Gulf of Mexico state and federal waters, and will reopen for harvest statewide Sept. 1.

Unique to the region, snook are one of the many reasons Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World. Seasonal harvest closures and anglers using proper handling methods when practicing catch-and-release help conserve Florida's valuable snook populations and can ensure the species' abundance for anglers today and generations to come. To learn more and see a video about catch-and-release fishing and the best way to handle a fish, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," then "Recreational Regulations" and "Fish Handling."

Anglers can report their catch on the Snook and Gamefish Foundation's website at SnookFoundation.org External Website by clicking on the "Angler Action Program" link in the bar at the top of the page.

Learn more about recreational fishing at MyFWC.com/ Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater Fishing" and "Recreational Regulations."

FWC: Safe Boating Saves Lives

Although Florida's boating season never really ends, the traditional start is marked by National Safe Boating Week – a time for boaters to focus on simple and effective steps that make boating safer. Leading the nation with nearly 1 million registered vessels across the state, Florida is the boating capital of the world and is world-renowned as a prime boating spot for residents and visitors. Each year, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers respond to far too many tragic and preventable boating accidents, so they want all boaters to remember to boat safely.

"Florida is an incredible boating destination," said Maj. Rob Rowe, leader of the FWC's Boating and Waterways Section. "The upcoming Memorial Day holiday and National Safe Boating Week, May 19-25, present an opportunity to emphasize the importance of remaining safe while boating."

"Our officers are committed to keeping people as safe as possible, but we need the public's help," Rowe said. "We want to reach as many boaters as we can to help them understand that most boating accidents are preventable."



Boaters can enjoy their time on the water even more by taking a few safety precautions such as wearing a life jacket, using an engine cut-off switch lanyard, designating a sober boat operator, paying attention and keeping a proper lookout, having an emergency locator beacon, filing a float plan, and taking a boating safety class.

The FWC's 2017 Boating Accident Statistical Report indicates there were 766 reportable boating accidents in Florida last year, resulting in 67 fatalities. This represents a 7 percent increase in the number of accidents, but the same number of fatalities as compared to 2016. The leading cause attributed to boating accidents in 2017 was the operator's inattention or lack of a proper lookout (24 percent). Falls overboard has been the leading type of fatal accident since 2003, with drowning as the leading cause of death.

Accidents can often be prevented if boat operators pay attention to everything going on around their vessel, maintain a proper lookout and if everyone on board is wearing a life jacket. Fifty-two percent of boating-related deaths last year were attributed to drowning, which life jackets are designed to prevent.

"A lot of people say they don't wear life jackets because they are uncomfortable," said Rowe. "But with newer inflatable models that are belt packs or suspenders, you hardly know you're wearing one. FWC officers wear inflatable life jackets all the time while on the water."

The FWC has released compelling life jacket testimonials from three north Florida families whose lives have been changed by wearing – or not wearing – a life jacket when things went wrong on the water. These dra-



Boating Safety

Continued from previous page

matic accounts provide vital information and a call to action for every boater to enjoy Florida's beautiful waters safely while wearing a life jacket.

An engine cut-off switch lanyard is a safety device that is attached from the boat operator to the ignition. If it is disconnected, the engine will shut down, potentially preventing a boater who has fallen overboard from being injured by the moving propeller of a runaway boat.

Boating education is critical. In 2017, 67 percent of boat operators involved in fatal accidents had no formal boater education. Florida's current boating safety education law applies to boaters born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, and who operate a vessel of 10 horsepower or greater.

"Safe boating is really the key to enjoying your time on the water, and education is a major component," said Rowe. "2018 marks the year that if a boater is age 30 or younger, they are required to have a boating safety education card in order to operate a vessel of 10 horsepower or greater."

FWC officers patrol our waterways in an effort to keep all boaters safe by checking that they have the required equipment and are operating safely. Ensure your encounters with FWC officers are positive ones by planning ahead and paying attention while on the water.

To report people who are operating boats dangerously, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or text Tip@MyFWC.com. More information can be found by visiting MyFWC.com/Boating. You can even search there for the [Florida Public Boat Ramp Finder](#) to help you find a great place to launch your boat.



Wear Sunscreen

By Jason C. Sheasley

Back in my invincible youth, I never wore sunscreen. I paid the price. Half a dozen years ago I had a piece of my hide carve out. Basal cell carcinoma, the most frequently occurring form of all cancers. Nowadays, I rarely venture outside for any great length of time without putting on sunscreen; wearing a hat or long sleeves. I endure the indignity of biannual visits to the dermatologists to avoid going back under the knife.

With summer bearing down on north Florida, here are some recourses for you to educate yourself on the dangers of prolonged exposure to the sun and what you can do to prevent skin cancer:

Environmental Working Group

The Environmental Working Group, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment, has published an on-line guide to sunscreens. In the 2018 guide, EWG evaluated approximately 650 sunscreen, 250 SPF-labeled moisturizers and 115 lip products based on: health hazards, UVB protection, UVA protection, and sunscreen stability. EWG found that 216 of products identified for beach and sport use meet their criteria. To find out whether or not your sunscreen made the grade, check out their website: <https://www.ewg.org/sunscreen/>

Skin Cancer Foundation

The Skin Cancer Foundation was founded in 1979, to educate the public about skin cancer. The Foundation's website (www.skincancer.org) provides detailed information regarding skin cancer prevention, identification and treatment. According to the foundation, half of all Americans will develop skin cancer at least once by the time they reach the age of 65.

Mayo Clinic

For a clinical discussion of [basal cell carcinoma](#) and [melanoma](#), checkout the Mayo Clinic's website. Here you will find information about the various types of skin cancer, the causes, symptoms, and treatment options.

In addition to taking preventive measures to protect yourself from sun damage, most types of skin cancers are treatable if diagnosed early. Get in the habit of seeing a dermatologist annually or semi-annually.



Guru Series II Fly Fishing Reel

WIN!

So far, no one has provided correct answers to both the March and April fly fishing trivia questions. At this point, anyone can win the **Lamson Guru Series II Fly Fishing Reel** the Club will be giving away at the end of the year. This month we have a freshwater fly fishing question. Western fly fishers experience something akin to redfish in the grass.

Without further ado, here is this month's trivia question.

The May Question

What frenzied phenomenon occurs in late April/early May on rivers in the Western United States, provided that the water reaches the "magic" temperature? (Provide the commonly used name for this event)

The Bonus Question

Provide the Latin name for one of the two species that cause this phenomenon.

Email your answers to the Newsletter Editor at fcffnewsletter@gmail.com.

Each participant will be awarded 1 point for each correct answer. You do not lose points for incorrect answers.

Half-a-point (0.5) will be awarded for each correct answer to the bonus question. However, in order to receive credit for the bonus question, you must answer the monthly question correctly.



MAY 2018 TIDES JACKSONVILLE (MAYPORT BAR PILOT DOCK)

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT
5/1/2018	Tue 10:52 PM	5.14 H	5/15/2018	Tue 9:18 AM	4.63 H	5/23/2018	Wed 4:59 PM	4.64 H
5/2/2018	Wed 4:50 AM	-0.01 L	5/15/2018	Tue 2:56 PM	-0.62 L	5/23/2018	Wed 10:47 PM	0.11 L
5/2/2018	Wed 11:07 AM	4.34 H	5/15/2018	Tue 9:41 PM	5.56 H	5/24/2018	Thu 5:17 AM	4.59 H
5/2/2018	Wed 4:43 PM	0.14 L	5/16/2018	Wed 3:41 AM	-0.44 L	5/24/2018	Thu 11:12 AM	-0.19 L
5/2/2018	Wed 11:31 PM	4.95 H	5/16/2018	Wed 10:07 AM	4.64 H	5/24/2018	Thu 5:57 PM	4.82 H
5/3/2018	Thu 5:33 AM	0.2 L	5/16/2018	Wed 3:42 PM	-0.66 L	5/24/2018	Thu 11:46 PM	0.06 L
5/3/2018	Thu 11:47 AM	4.15 H	5/16/2018	Wed 10:30 PM	5.62 H	5/25/2018	Fri 6:13 AM	4.52 H
5/3/2018	Thu 5:21 PM	0.37 L	5/17/2018	Thu 4:30 AM	-0.45 L	5/25/2018	Fri 12:03 PM	-0.23 L
5/4/2018	Fri 12:10 AM	4.74 H	5/17/2018	Thu 10:59 AM	4.6 H	5/25/2018	Fri 6:51 PM	4.98 H
5/4/2018	Fri 6:18 AM	0.4 L	5/17/2018	Thu 4:31 PM	-0.58 L	5/26/2018	Sat 12:41 AM	-0.01 L
5/4/2018	Fri 12:28 PM	3.99 H	5/17/2018	Thu 11:21 PM	5.58 H	5/26/2018	Sat 7:05 AM	4.46 H
5/4/2018	Fri 6:02 PM	0.59 L	5/18/2018	Fri 5:23 AM	-0.38 L	5/26/2018	Sat 12:51 PM	-0.26 L
5/5/2018	Sat 12:50 AM	4.53 H	5/18/2018	Fri 11:52 AM	4.54 H	5/26/2018	Sat 7:40 PM	5.1 H
5/5/2018	Sat 7:06 AM	0.58 L	5/18/2018	Fri 5:24 PM	-0.42 L	5/27/2018	Sun 1:32 AM	-0.07 L
5/5/2018	Sat 1:11 PM	3.86 H	5/19/2018	Sat 12:15 AM	5.45 H	5/27/2018	Sun 7:53 AM	4.4 H
5/5/2018	Sat 6:49 PM	0.78 L	5/19/2018	Sat 6:20 AM	-0.26 L	5/27/2018	Sun 1:37 PM	-0.26 L
5/6/2018	Sun 1:34 AM	4.34 H	5/19/2018	Sat 12:48 PM	4.47 H	5/27/2018	Sun 8:25 PM	5.15 H
5/6/2018	Sun 7:57 AM	0.69 L	5/19/2018	Sat 6:24 PM	-0.21 L	5/28/2018	Mon 2:20 AM	-0.12 L
5/6/2018	Sun 1:58 PM	3.78 H	5/20/2018	Sun 1:11 AM	5.26 H	5/28/2018	Mon 8:37 AM	4.32 H
5/6/2018	Sun 7:44 PM	0.91 L	5/20/2018	Sun 7:21 AM	-0.16 L	5/28/2018	Mon 2:19 PM	-0.22 L
5/7/2018	Mon 2:22 AM	4.19 H	5/20/2018	Sun 1:47 PM	4.42 H	5/28/2018	Mon 9:08 PM	5.14 H
5/7/2018	Mon 8:48 AM	0.72 L	5/20/2018	Sun 7:31 PM	-0.02 L	5/29/2018	Tue 3:04 AM	-0.13 L
5/7/2018	Mon 2:51 PM	3.76 H	5/21/2018	Mon 2:10 AM	5.04 H	5/29/2018	Tue 9:20 AM	4.23 H
5/7/2018	Mon 8:45 PM	0.95 L	5/21/2018	Mon 8:23 AM	-0.11 L	5/29/2018	Tue 2:59 PM	-0.14 L
5/8/2018	Tue 3:17 AM	4.1 H	5/21/2018	Mon 2:50 PM	4.42 H	5/29/2018	Tue 9:48 PM	5.07 H
5/8/2018	Tue 9:38 AM	0.68 L	5/21/2018	Mon 8:39 PM	0.09 L	5/30/2018	Wed 3:46 AM	-0.08 L
5/8/2018	Tue 3:48 PM	3.84 H	5/22/2018	Tue 3:13 AM	4.84 H	5/30/2018	Wed 10:01 AM	4.13 H
5/8/2018	Tue 9:44 PM	0.91 L	5/22/2018	Tue 9:22 AM	-0.11 L	5/30/2018	Wed 3:37 PM	-0.02 L
5/9/2018	Wed 4:15 AM	4.09 H	5/22/2018	Tue 3:56 PM	4.5 H	5/30/2018	Wed 10:27 PM	4.95 H
5/9/2018	Wed 10:26 AM	0.57 L	5/22/2018	Tue 9:45 PM	0.12 L	5/31/2018	Thu 4:27 AM	0.01 L
5/9/2018	Wed 4:46 PM	4.01 H	5/23/2018	Wed 4:16 AM	4.69 H	5/31/2018	Thu 10:41 AM	4.03 H
5/9/2018	Wed 10:41 PM	0.78 L	5/23/2018	Wed 10:19 AM	-0.15 L	5/31/2018	Thu 4:13 PM	0.13 L
5/10/2018	Thu 5:11 AM	4.14 H						
5/10/2018	Thu 11:13 AM	0.4 L						
5/10/2018	Thu 5:40 PM	4.26 H						
5/10/2018	Thu 11:36 PM	0.59 L						
5/11/2018	Fri 6:04 AM	4.25 H						
5/11/2018	Fri 11:58 AM	0.18 L						
5/11/2018	Fri 6:31 PM	4.56 H						
5/12/2018	Sat 12:28 AM	0.36 L						
5/12/2018	Sat 6:54 AM	4.38 H						
5/12/2018	Sat 12:43 PM	-0.06 L						
5/12/2018	Sat 7:19 PM	4.87 H						
5/13/2018	Sun 1:18 AM	0.1 L						
5/13/2018	Sun 7:42 AM	4.5 H						
5/13/2018	Sun 1:28 PM	-0.3 L						
5/13/2018	Sun 8:06 PM	5.17 H						
5/14/2018	Mon 2:07 AM	-0.14 L						
5/14/2018	Mon 8:29 AM	4.59 H						
5/14/2018	Mon 2:12 PM	-0.49 L						
5/14/2018	Mon 8:53 PM	5.41 H						
5/15/2018	Tue 2:54 AM	-0.34 L						

