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First Coast Fly Fishers

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June 2024

Camp Weed Casting Clinic for 11-15 Year Olds

A dozen First Coast Fly Fishers turned out over the month of June to benefit one of our favorite fishing and teaching spots—Camp Weed and the Cervany Conference Center, in Live Oak, FL

For four Thursdays in June FCFE'ers turned out with deck wreckers and flat bars, hammers, screw guns and saws to tear out and rebuild the 80 foot pier and 20x30, partially covered dock. Most days the crew fish before and after dockworker and lunch.

A couple of the days, FCFE'ers did dock work then taught groups of about a dozen kid campers how to fly cast on Camp Weed's spacious and clean-cut lawns.

In past years we have taken the new fly fishers over to Camp Weed's White Lake to employ their newly learned skills, but this year, unusually dense floating vegetation filled the areas of the lake where shore fishing was possible.

Some club members fished from paddle craft. A few nice fish were caught. One 4-5 pounder came to the boat, fooled by a 7", coffee-colored, speckled plastic work. A few smaller bass and some hand sized bream were taken on Dick Michaelson's fly, Special Weapon.



June 2024 Outing Recap

Cedar Point Low Tide Outing

The summer season is almost upon us according to the calendar but you can say it has already reared it's ugly head these last few weeks. Saturday morning was no exception. It started out warm, windless, muggy and buggy but at least got a little breezy as the morning progressed. Typical Florida weather!

We had six members in attendance. Captain Dick Michaelson and Howard Marshall in a boat, Captain Richard Palazini and Bob Hornbuckle in another, and two kayakers, myself and Adam Klohr.

The fishing was somewhat lackluster as a whole but Dick was able to land two 21 inch plus redfish and Howard brought in one at eighteen inches. Richard Palazini caught a couple redfish and I was able to catch a mighty little redfish of five inches and a trout of twelve inches.

We all called it a day around 12:30 to 1pm and heading to Bono's BBQ on Merrill Road for food and fellowship and the telling of tales. All in all, it was a good day to get out on the water and fish, and sweat.

Next month's outing is planned for July 20th at David Lambert's river place on the Withlacoochie. Currently, conditions have improved on the river's water level but can change with the rainy season. Our fallback sight will be Camp Weed/White Lake. I have spoken to Gina at the office about this possibility and was told it was available, if needed. I will do a write up early next month for this outing.

David Lambert is conducting another Summer Camp Fly Casting class this Thursday at Camp Weed for the kids. If anyone is interested in assisting, let Dave know. Help is always appreciated.

See y'all at the next event/meeting!

Richard Gragg

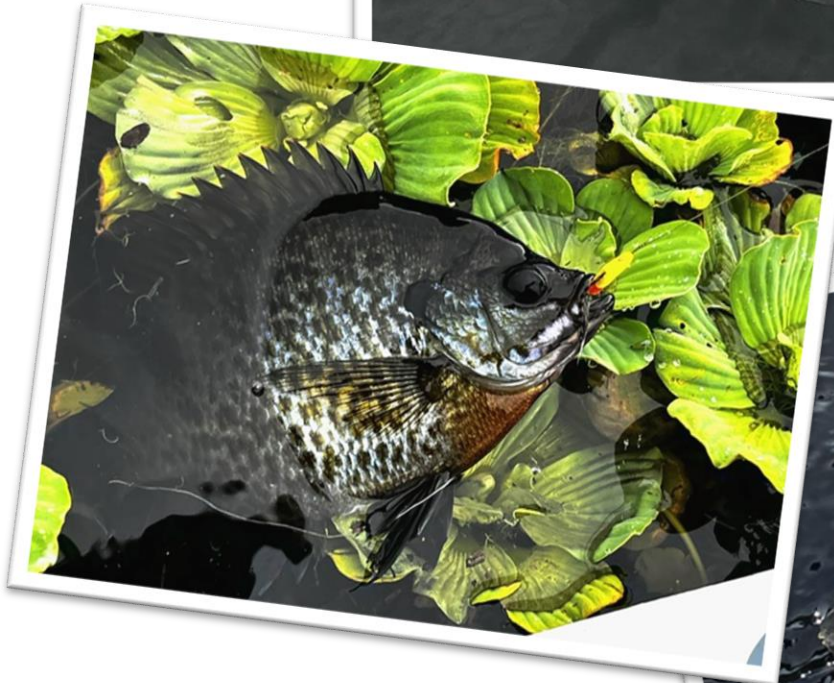
Outings Director

Casting with Jeff Randall

Watch Jeff show you the finer points of fly casting.



Members Fish Pictures





Wee Willie Wiggler Fly Pattern By Rick Smith

April 2, 2023

Wee Willie Wiggler



First, thanks to Dick Michaelson for making me aware of this fly.

This fly was invented by Craig Riendeau about 2011. Craig is a guide based in Georgia and a fly designer for Rainy's Flies. Originally intended as a panfish fly it is also readily taken by trout and bass, although the small hook size of the original makes landing larger bass problematic.

As originally tied, the tail used rubber "tentacles" cut from a puffer ball or googly worm toy. Although I was given some of these tentacles in a fly tying class, I found that they were rather fragile and became brittle in a short time. The toys come in limited colors and I was unable to find a reliable source. I substituted tails cut from soft plastic crappie baits and found that they worked well; they are durable, come in a wide range of colors, even glow-in-dark, and are readily available at Walmart or Bass Pro Shops.

This fly is usually fished as a small streamer. Once the strike zone depth has been determined it can be suspended under a small bobber such as an Air-Lock, Oros or Slip Strike style "strike indicator." It can also be used as a point fly in dropper rigs.

For more information see Craig's YouTube video "Tying the Wee Willie Wiggler" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_X9OC1Fdq40) and his Coastal Angler Magazine article "Wee Willy Wigglers Are Fly Rod Magic" (<https://coastalanglermag.com/wee-willy-wigglers-fly-rod-magic/>). And yes, the spelling of "Willie" changed to "Willy."

Materials

Hook: 90-degree jig hook size 8, such as the Eagle Claw 575 (gold), Eagle Claw 570 (bronze), or equivalent

Head: 1/8 inch (3.2mm) brass bead, original used gold color

Thread: 6/0 (136 denier) Uni-thread, 6/0 (140 denier) Danville Flymaster, 140 denier UTC Ultra thread or equivalent, color to match collar

Underbody: 3 to 4 strands of pearl Krystal Flash

Tail: tail section (approximately 1-1/8 inch long) cut from a soft plastic crappie jig bait, such as Bobby Garland Crappie Baits, Mo'Glo 2-inch Baby Shad "Outlaw Special" or "Screamer" glow-in-the-dark colors

Collar: rooster saddle hackle feather, medium pearl chenille, or flashabou strands;
original used black or chartreuse rooster saddle hackle

Adhesive: cyanoacrylate glue, Zap-A-Gap Medium CA+, LocTite Gel or equivalent

Optional: head cement such as Loon Water Based Head Cement or Sally Hanson clear nail polish or thin UV-curing resin such as Solarez or Loon

Instructions

1. Crush hook barb.
2. Check hook point for sharpness, hone hook point if needed.
3. Thread bead on to hook, small end towards hook eye.
4. Secure hook in vise jaws with shank up.
5. Catch in thread behind bead, cut off tag and build small cone of thread to capture bead, fat end of cone against the bead and about one half the bead diameter, cone length about bead width.
6. Wrap thread back along the shank stopping at hook bend, thread should hang about in line with the crushed barb.
7. (Optional) Apply head cement or UV-curing resin to thread cone. Allow time for the head cement to set. If using UV-curing resin, let the resin saturate into the thread before curing with a UV light.
8. Prepare tail by cutting approximately 1-1/8 inch off the tail section of the soft plastic crappie bait.
9. Heat end of bodkin with a butane lighter for about 15 to 20 seconds and use this to melt in a 3/8- to 1/2-inch long channel into the flat side of the soft plastic tail; this may take more than one heat. Channel should be no deeper than the diameter of the bodkin. Set tail aside to cool.
10. Prepare the underbody by cutting 3 or 4 strands Krystal Flash, fold strands in half and trim ends flush. Tie in the Krystal Flash by the trimmed ends starting at the hook bend to create a loop. Stop thread about one bead's width behind bead.
11. Insert dubbing spinner into flash loops and twist to form a "rope" of flash. Wrap this rope around hook shank to create an underbody; wrap in the opposite direction of the thread wraps used to tie in the flash. While maintaining tension on the flash rope with the dubbing spinner, tie it off ending about one bead width from bead head. Trim off excess flash.
12. (It may help to practice this step without glue a few times. The trick is to not glue yourself to the fly or glue the fly or yourself to the vise.) Run a bead of glue along the top of underbody, avoid getting any glue on the thread cone. Invert fly. Position soft plastic tail underneath, channel side up, and press tail upward positioning underbody into the channel and leaving a gap between the front of

the tail and the bead about one bead wide. Hold tail in place while glue sets, about 30 seconds. Reposition fly with tail on top and let glue set for about another minute. Check that tail is secure by gently pulling tail upward.

13. Tie in collar using one of the following:
 - a. Hackle feather. Feather barbs should be about 1.5x hook gap. Trim small end of feather stem and tie in directly in front of tail; stop thread behind the bead head. Palmer hackle forward 4 to 6 turns to create a collar. Tie off hackle directly behind bead and trim off excess feather.
 - b. Pearl chenille. Tie in a 2" to 3" piece of pearl chenille in front of tail, wrap chenille to form collar and tie off behind bead head. Trim off excess chenille.
 - c. Flashabou. Tie in 10 to 15 of about 2" long strands of flashabou at centers of the strands. Fold strands back toward tail and tie strands in place to form collar.
14. Whip finish behind bead head.
15. (Optional) Apply head cement or UV-curing resin to the whip finish thread wraps; set the resin with the UV light.

Variations

1. Tie with no collar on a wet fly or streamer hook.
2. Tie in two rubber legs on each side in front of tail and tie in a pearl chenille or dubbing collar between the bead and legs.
3. Tie smaller using a 3/4 inch tail (such as a Bobby Garland Crappie Bait Mo'Glo 1.25 Inch Itty Bit Swim'r) on a size 12 jig hook (Eagle Claw 575 or 570) or a size 16 wide gap 60-degree euro nymph jig hook (Hanák 450BL) with a 3/32-inch brass bead.
4. Tie larger using a tail cut to 1-3/4 inches from a Bobby Garland Crappie Bait, Mo'Glo 2-inch Baby Shad, on a size 4 90-degree jig hook (Eagle Claw 575 or 570) with a 5/32-inch brass bead.

