

First Coast Fly Fisher

December 2006

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



View of Cumberland Island Wild Horses in The Marsh Grass -- Photo: Dave Kudley

MEETING & SPEAKER

FCFF Meeting: Monday, January 8 -- Speaker Capt John Bottko of the Salty Feather Fly SHop on St. Johns Bluff Rd. John is a charter member of FCFF and is instrumental in bringing saltwater fly fishing to this area. He is a former club president is an inventive fly tyer. Capt. Bottko is an knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

*Also, free raffle * **Orvis T-3 Rod and Mach 4 Reel** * for members with dues paid by Jan. 8. See pg. 5*

COMING EVENTS

Friday & Saturday Dec 15 & 16 - Outing To Florida House Inn: Fernandina Red and Winter Trout Fishing - More Info at November at Meeting and at Website, www.fcff.org

Saturday, Jan. 20 -- Bass and Bream outing to Golden Pond. Come join other FCFFers at one of the better phosphate ponds in the area -- Ernie Frey's Golden Pond, near Live Oak and white Springs. This is a small boat fishery, canoes and small jon boats or kayak. More information at the January meeting or call Mike Head.

Saturday, Jan. 27 -- FFF Florida Mini-Fly Show and Conclave, Dania Florida -- Free admission, top fly casters and fly tyers. More information on page 5.

Saturday and Sunday Feb 3 & 4 -- Annual FCFF Banquet Weekend. Free half day clinic for all dues paid members, 9:30 Saturday with international Fly Fishers Extrodinaire Lars and Jennifer Olsson.

Saturday night, 6 p.m. FCFF Annual Banquet at the UNF Conference Center. Lots of raffle items and silent auction goodies. Olssons are guest speakers.

Sunday Feb 4 Intensive Casting and Tying Day with Jennifer and Lars Olsson. More about this on page 2

Banquet

Jennifer & Lars Olsson Here For FCFE Banquet Weekend

Free 1/2-Day Clinic Sat, Feb 3; Full Paid Clinic Sunday

Time again for that biggest of events in the world of First Coast Fly Fishers — **The FCFE Annual Banquet and Fly Fishing weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Feb 3 & 4.**

As most of you know, this is a weekend where FCFEers get to learn from some of the finest instructors and personalities in our sport. This year we are pleased to present **Lars and Jennifer Olsson**, husband and wife fly-fishing instructors and writers who split their year between Montana and Sweden.

If you watch fly fishing TV, you've seen both Lars and Jennifer recently. Lars Olsson is a featured speaker at international trade shows and is a riverkeeper in Sweden for half-the year. He has written two books and numerous international articles on fly fishing.

Jennifer Olsson is a former fly casting instructor and licensed Montana and Yellowstone Park fishing guide. She has authored 2 books and written for a variety



Jennifer and Lars Olsson

of fishing publications. She is a featured fly fishing commentator and fisher on CBS, NPR, and ESPN. Jennifer Olsson was nominated Big Sister of 1990 from 75,000 volunteers and was honored at the White House.

Here's the weekend lineup:

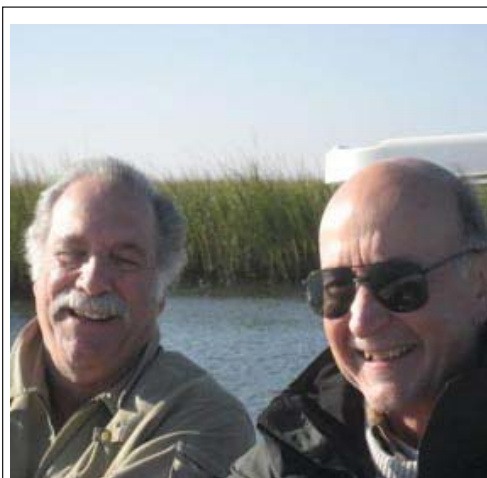
Saturday, Feb 3, 9 a.m. meet for a club-wide clinic with Lars and Jennifer. They will provide casting instruction, rigging, tying advise – all with an international slant. The clinic

ends around 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. Annual Banquet at UNF Conference Center. Lots of prizes, drawings, raffles, and a huge silent auction. If you attended last year, you know the banquet was a bang-up success; the food was great and the prizes were exceptional.

Sunday, Feb 4, 9:30 a.m.: 16 lucky FCFEers join Lars and Jennifer Olsson for an exciting, informative day of casting, tying, and rigging, all with an eye toward broadening our knowledge of how fishing is undertaken throughout the world. Cost is \$50 per person. They'll likely still be a couple of openings at the January meeting. Contact David Lambert to sign up, dlambert@onwatermedia.com; or call 241-4163.

Homer Bliss is the banquet chair again this year. Look for your banquet sign-up sheet in the very near future. Homer is offering an **early banquet registration raffle**, so get your tickets quickly. He'll be sending out banquet signups in the very near future.



Dave Kudley and Lew Holliday On Cumberland Island Run

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NEWSLETTER

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Gulf Coast Cookbook

Randy Wayne White Shares His Tastes for Food and Friends

by David Lambert

Randy Wayne White's Gulf Coast Cookbook: With Memories and Photos of Sanibel Island; By Randy Wayne White and Carlene Fredericka Brennen, c. 2006, The Lyons Press, Guilford, CT

I love The Lyons Press, not because they bring to print classic and classy fly fishing literature, which they most certainly do, but because they sometimes send me these great books to review.

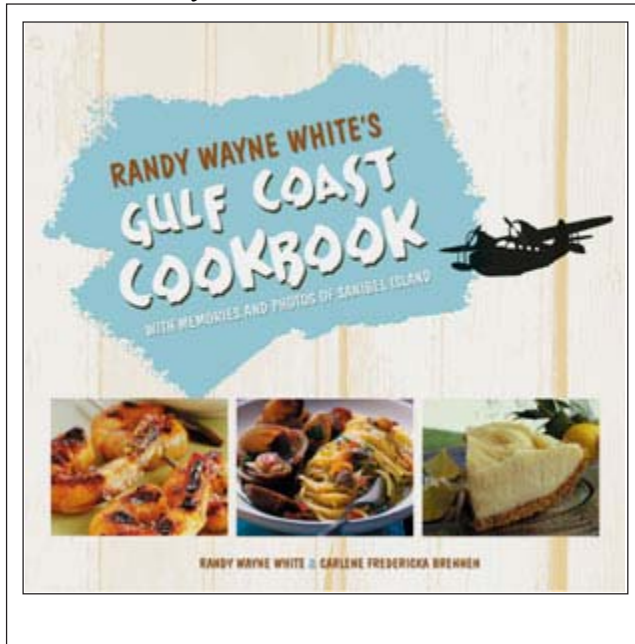
So it is with a recent Lyons' offering, *Randy Wayne White's Gulf Coast Cook Book*.

Randy Wayne White is a recovering fly and light-tackle guide from Sanibel who made a forced but very successful professional segue into writing. White has authored 13 Doc Ford novels and four books of essays, which had former lives as adventure-travel pieces in *Outside* and other magazines. His novel *Sanibel Flats* was voted one of the 100 best mysteries of the 20th Century by the American Independent Booksellers Association and his books show regularly in the NYT Best Sellers List.

Rightly so; White's Doc Ford novels are a fast, fun read with head nods to McDonald and Steinbeck, two Johns the author openly admires. RWW novels entertain, true, but they educate us too, as though Travis McGee and Ed Rickett's traveled the same celestial circuit but in singular temporal form.

Randy Wayne White fans will find much to like here. His *Gulf Coast Cook Book* is a well whisked amalgam of recipes, local flavor, quotes, and photos of old friends, both animate and still. Part of the fun for RWW fans is the behind-the-scenes clips and photos of real-life people who morphed into characters of Doc Ford novel — the guides, marina owners, managers and anglers on who negotiated the wobbly docks of Sanibel's Tarpon Bay Marina. It's like recognizing old friends.

There's nothing fussy about these recipes; it's not haute cuisine, but it's not Cracker cooking either. Randy Wayne White likes food and drink the way he likes his friends, sincere and funny, but with style and substance — with



maybe a pinch of eccentricity to spice up the mix. Recipes like Banana Leaf Snapper with Lime Cilantro Sauce reside on the printer's plate next to Captain Gene's Mullet. Seafood and citrus are gloriously represented here, but they are not glorified. RWW and friends have chosen their menu well. For your palatal pleasure: chapters on salsas and hot sauces; soups, chowders, and stews; herbs, salads, shellfish, shark, vegetables, meats and poultry, and tropical drinks.

RWW likes his eccentricities. The book has a section devoted to foods cooked in beer ("Beer; frankly, I admire it.") and a few

off-the-wall recipes like Brine Cured Pork and Grilled Marinated Shark Fillets (which, like Tiger Soup, should begin with this admonition: "First you catch the shark. . .").

The bulk of recipes are more conventional, like Brazilian Potato and Meat Pie, or 'Perfect Beans,' a drollly titled recipe that frankly I'm dying to try.

What follows is a sampling of entrees and appetizers from White's Gulf Coast Cook Book: Pan-Seared Pompano in Summer Marinara Sauce. All-Crab Crab Cakes. Grilled Grouper Wrapped in Prosciutto on a Bed of Salsa. Bonita Bill's Salsa, a roasted corn menage with lime, cumin, tomatoes, peppers and cilantro. ("Bonita Bill's is a quirky outdoor restaurant and bar. . .it may be the only restaurant in Florida with an unlisted number.") Mesquite Grilled Chicken with Herbed Wild rice, Apples, and Walnuts. Belizean Chicken Stew ("Belize city is a rat hole but the country people are wonderful and great cooks.") Twice Fried Plantains (Tostones) and Watermelon Jam.

Beverages and desserts play no small role: Delights such as Bananas in Paradise, Dan's Sanibel Rum Cake, Vodka Oyster Shooters, Doc Ford's Hemingway Daiquiri, and Mindi's Mojito can bracket any of the books fine entrees. Consume enough of these, though, and you may bypass the meal altogether. It's your choice.

Either way, Randy and friends have compiled enough sumptuous suggestions to keep you in Palatal Paradise for a few good months, even if you're not a Doc Ford fan.

Cumberland Island Winter Trout

FCFFers Showed Up But the Trout Stayed Home

by *Donn McKinnon*

It was a cool crisp November morning as 8 FCFFers arrived at the downtown Fernandina boat ramp at 8 a.m. The ramp was almost deserted as our we launched our 3 boats for the 35 minute ride over to Cumberland Island. The armada consisted of George and Greg Durrance, Patricia Davis, Lou Holliday, Dave Kudley, Dick Choate, Greg Howlich, and Donn McKinnon.

We kept our speed down to about 35 m.p.h. for the inlet crossing, mainly because the cold air stung our faces. The rough patch is usually right in the middle of the channel, but no whitecaps were forming yet today. We passed by the Cumberland Island Ferry dock and old plantation and the wind died to almost nothing. Soon we passed the Greyfield Inn dock. After 5 more minutes, our armada arrived at the resident's dock.

We walked the 10 minute walk to Jim McCully's cabin while our faces tingled from the numbing cold and eventually re-warmed. A small herd of wild horses grazed at the edge of the marsh no more than 50 yards from us. The canopy of old oak trees was beautiful as we approached the cabin.

Jim had hot coffee waiting for us and it was delicious! Two more people were already there, George Holman and



Above: The author fights a winter trout from McCully's Cumberland Island dock. Below: McCully's isolated, log island cabin

our fearless leader, Prez. Mike McQuisten. Jim then briefed us on where and how we would be fishing. He told us we were going back to fish from the Greyfield Dock to the Ferry Dock, fishing each dock for seatrout. He was afraid if we didn't get going, the tide would slacken and the fishing would be over.

Well, he was right. By the time all five boats got back to the area, most of the bite was over. The FCFF outing jinx was working! A couple of us caught fish at the Greyfield Inn Dock, but after about 30 minutes a dredge started up right beside the dock. The noise killed the fishing, so we headed back to the cabin for lunch.

Several seatrout were caught at the boat dock before we went to the cabin for lunch so fishing part of the outing was saved. We sat on Jim's porch and talked fishing while we ate. It was great fun!

Soon, it was time to head back. The boat ride back was easier. We had following seas for the inlet crossing and it was much warmer. All in all, it was a great day. For those of you in the club who have not experienced the beauty of Cumberland, you need to go next time. Thanks so much to Jim McCully for sharing his expertise and cabin with us.

FREE Raffle For Orvis T-3, Mach 4

Must Have Dues Paid By January 8 To Get Ticket!!



Top of the Line Orvis T-3 Rod and Mach Large Arbor Reel -- Retail Value: \$950

T-3 8 Weight, 5 oz., 4 -piece, Tip Flex 9.5

A high octane eight-weight that casts further and more accurately than any other eight-weight available. A crisp butt and sensitive tip creates high line speed and tight loops for long casts in any condition. T3 technology and innovative tapers creates a rod so well balanced that the caster can feel the line load at any range. The result is perfect timing, longer casts, better accuracy and the ability to feel the slightest takes with 80 feet of line on the water. A four-piece travel rod that is as easy to take to the tropics as it is the local bass pond. Perfect for bass, bonefish, redfish, stripers, snook and baby tarpon.

Features include:

- Super-high modulus graphite and thermoplastic-enriched, thermoset resin/scrim matrix: more powerful, more durable.
- Three coats of finish with a final UV blocking coat.
- Silicon-carbide-lined stripping, titanium carbide snake guides for lowest possible coefficient of friction.
- Protective aluminum rod tube.
- 25-Year Guarantee to repair or replace no matter the reason.

Mach 4 Large Arbor Fly Fly Fishing Reels

Mach fly fishing reels combine light weight, large backing capacity, and drag power more effectively at a better price than any fly reel on the market.

- Machined design is 35% lighter than the Orvis Vortex for all-day casting comfort and fly rod/reel system balance.
- Large arbor design provides twice the backing capacity as Orvis Battenkill Large Arbor V with nearly the same fly line retrieval rate, 11" per revolution. Standard arbor fly reels on average retrieve only 6" of fly line per revolution.
- Eight separate stainless steel to Broflon® drag surfaces provide smooth, tippet-protecting start-up, tremendous stopping power.
- Large drag knob features 630° indexed adjustment range that is numbered for reference so switching from fighting disc drag to stripping drag and back again is quick and easy.
- No tools needed to easily swap spools to load a different line for changing fly angling conditions.
- Hard anodized finish is embedded into the 6262-T6 aerospace-grade aluminum for durability.
- 100% corrosion-proof fly reel is easy to disassemble and clean.
- Easily switched from right- to left-hand retrieve.
- For fly-line weights 6-9 weight

Note: Raffle tickets will be issued to FCFE members in good standing who have paid their dues on or before the January 8, 2007 meeting. You do not have to be present to win.



Federation of Fly Fishers Starts New Florida Council

Free Fly Show Jan. 27 To Feature Casting and Tying Greats

In the past year Florida members of the Federation of Fly Fishers voted to succeed from the South Eastern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) and form a new council, The Florida Council of the FFF. "We believe the new Florida Council will be able to far better represent the 1000s of flyfishers, both fresh and saltwater, across the state," said new Council president Capt. Pete Greenan of Boca Grande.

In the last year, FFF-Florida increased its voting membership by 25%, added three new clubs, and put \$50,000 into the bettering the Florida environment. "We've established partnerships with manufacturers to support fly tying workshops and fly casting clinics. We have brought the Casting Instructor Certification process to two Florida events and are managing the first Florida Conclave," Greenan said.

FFF-Florida will work with sister organizations like Coastal Conservation Association, Bassmasters and Trout Unlimited to help protect the rights of fly fishers and the fishing environment of Florida.

The first FFF-Florida Fly Show and Conclave will be held Saturday, January 27 in Dania, FL, at the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) museum. The event is free to the public. Event hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Below is a partial program list of casting instructors, fly tyers, and event speakers:

Program list for New FFF-Florida Mini-Conclave and Flyfishing Show

Casting programs – 1 hr each starting at 11 am. Joan Wulff; John Cave – founder of FFF Casting Program; Dusty Sprague – FFF Casting Board of Governors; Gordy Hill – FFF Casting Board of Governors; Dan Lagace – Nationally Recognized for Teaching Either Handed Casting

Fishing Presentations -- John Cave – The Lagoon; Steve Huff - permit; Alan Zamemba/Marty Arostegui – fresh water/peacock bass; Dr. Aaron Adams – Author, the Fisherman's Coast; Rick Grasset – southwest Florida

Celebrity Fly Tyers -- Jim Stewart – hair flies; John Sweeny – offshore flies; Les Fulcher – exotic patterns; Jack Neely – foam spiders plus; Steve Gibson – salt water flies; Oscar Feliu (sp) – salt water and fresh water flies; Tom Logan – trout flies; Ginger Allen; Jim Brady.



Above: FCFFers Greg Howick, Dick Choate, Donn McKinnon, and Lew Holliday Hang Out During Lunch at The Cumberland Island Outing Last Month. Twelve club members fished the cold waters for seatrout, but only a few were caught Photo: Dave Kudley
Below: A Clouser Original Fly Tied By the Master Himself. Photo: Rick Palazzini

Catching The Wiley Redfish

The Perfect Cast Across a Mud Bar

by Dick Michaelson

Last month I fished with Jim Wiley, the nationally recognized fish carver who used to live in Jacksonville and was a member of First Coast Fly Fishers. Jim mostly fishes for trout now, since he lives in Sparta Tenn.

Jim has been an investment broker and antiques dealer, but now but now does what he really likes to -- carve fish. Jim takes a piece of wood and makes it into something special. He paints the fish after he carves it.

Jim has special talents. He started painting when he was 65 years old. He has been making beautiful sculptures every since. Jim has always been an outdoors man and an avid fly fishermen and loves trout fish above all.

We met at the Clapboard Boat Ramp at 6:30 a.m. Because he was from out of town I took him to all my honey holes. Ha! We fished the first place we stopped, had no takers. After being out for an hour I noticed water in the bottom of my jon boat. I heard a sound coming from the front of the boat and, when I lifted the front hatch, I saw water flowing in from two rivets that had popped out below the water line. I was able to get the boat on a plane and head back to the ramp for repairs. In the tool box in my truck I found two small screws with nuts that fit perfect. Within minutes we were off to another spot.

We found fish everywhere we went but they did not want to eat. I tried all the flies that I had caught fish with, but it was a small #8 Fox Tail Clouser that gave Jim his first redfish hookup on a fly. The hook-up was especially nice because Jim and I both saw the fish backing in a small creek two oyster beds away from us.

There was barely enough water to get my boat close enough for Jim to make a cast. I had to ground the boat on a mud bar and as the fish came toward us Jim made a perfect cast. This was his first red on a fly. We were both happy. It was a pleasure poling Jim, he could cast 40-50 ft with ease.

During the day I commented to Jim more then once that he was very good at spotting fish. I was on the poling platform



Former FCFFer Jim Wiley With Clapboard Red

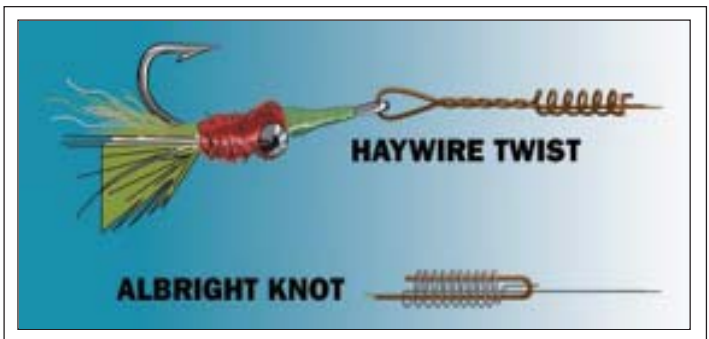
and he spotted every fish I saw and made good cast that should have caught fish.

After about 4 hours on the front of the boat Jim was getting tired so we headed to the ramp. When I got home I went to Jim's website and when I saw his carving's with all the detail it dawned on me why he was so good a spotting fish. He definitely has a good eye for detail, so it was no wonder he could spot fish as good as he did.

Jim gave me one of his carving's of a tailing red. I gave him one of my books and he gave me a carving. Who do you think made out on that deal? Ha! Check out his website and www.wiley-fishcarver.com

by Christmas is just around the corner.

Rigging Wire for Toothy Fish



HayWire Twist -- Pass the wire through the hook eye and give it 3 to 5 uniform twists. Then begin barrel wrapping the tag end around the standing line for another 4 to 6 close wraps. After the last wrap, do not cut. Instead, bend the tag end at a right angle to form a small lever. Rotate the wire in one direction until it snaps off cleanly at the knot. (Wire diameter exaggerated for illustration.)

Albright Knot -- Form a 'U' in the wire. Lay the monofilament into the loop. Pinch the first wrap against the wire and continue with another 8 or 9 wraps. Pass back through the head of the 'U,' moisten and draw tight on the tag end first. For extra strength, double the monofilament, or tie a Bimini twist and then tie the Albright as close to the Bimini as possible.

Cumberland Island Outing Group



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