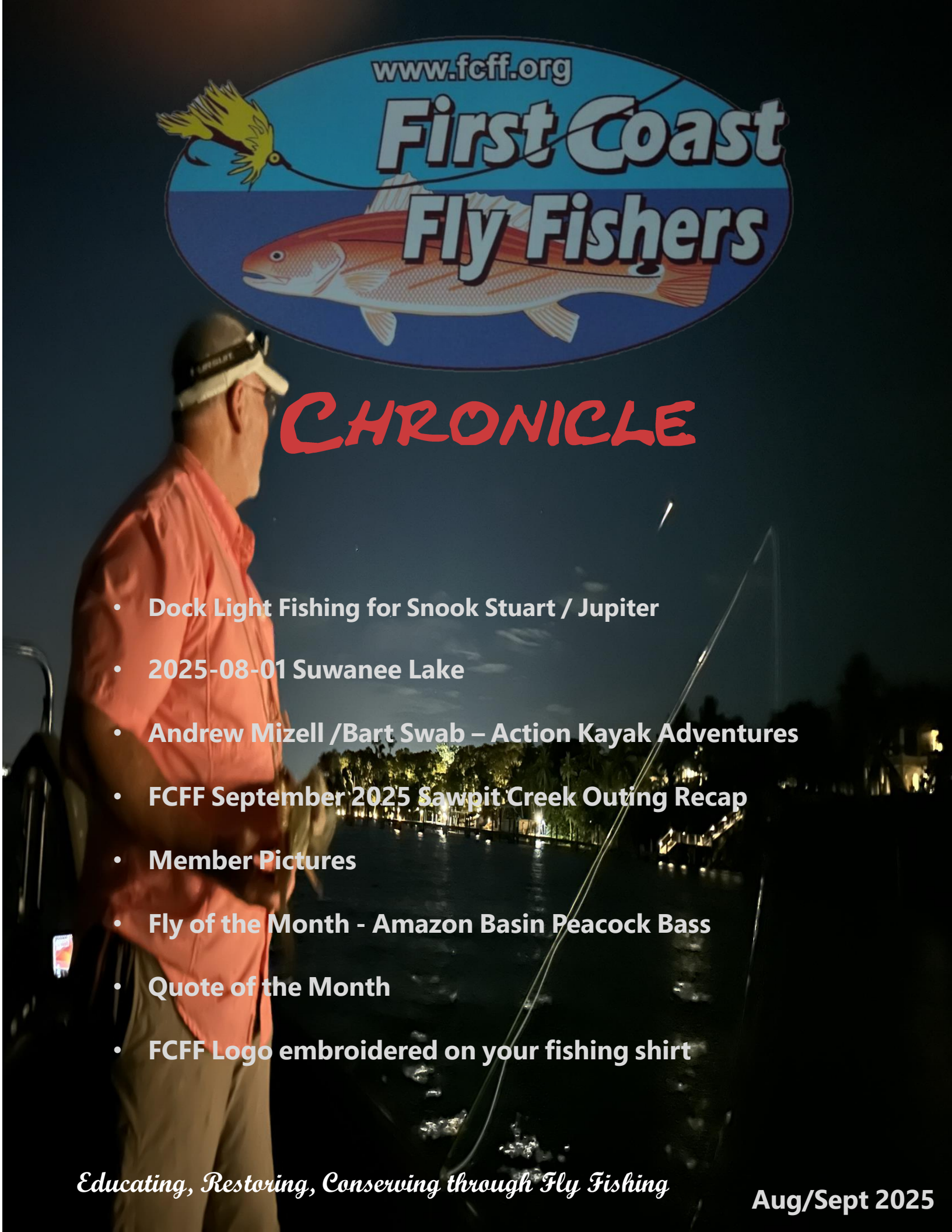
www.fcff.org

First Coast Fly Fishers

Chronicle



- Dock Light Fishing for Snook Stuart / Jupiter
- 2025-08-01 Suwanee Lake
- Andrew Mizell /Bart Swab – Action Kayak Adventures
- FCFF September 2025 Sawpit Creek Outing Recap
- Member Pictures
- Fly of the Month - Amazon Basin Peacock Bass
- Quote of the Month
- FCFF Logo embroidered on your fishing shirt

Educating, Restoring, Conserving through Fly Fishing

Aug/Sept 2025

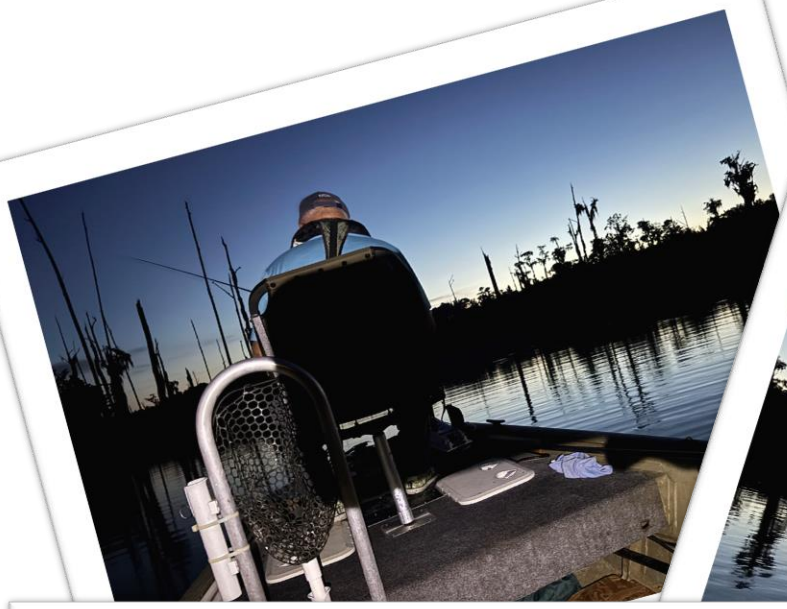
Dock Light Fishing for Snook

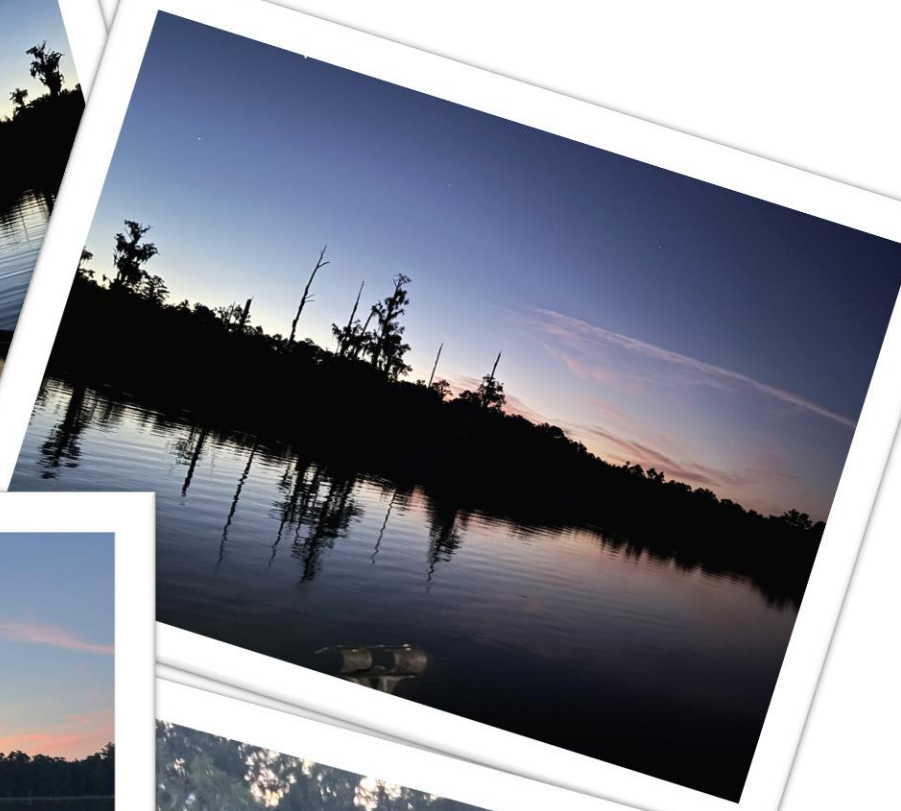
Stuart/Jupiter

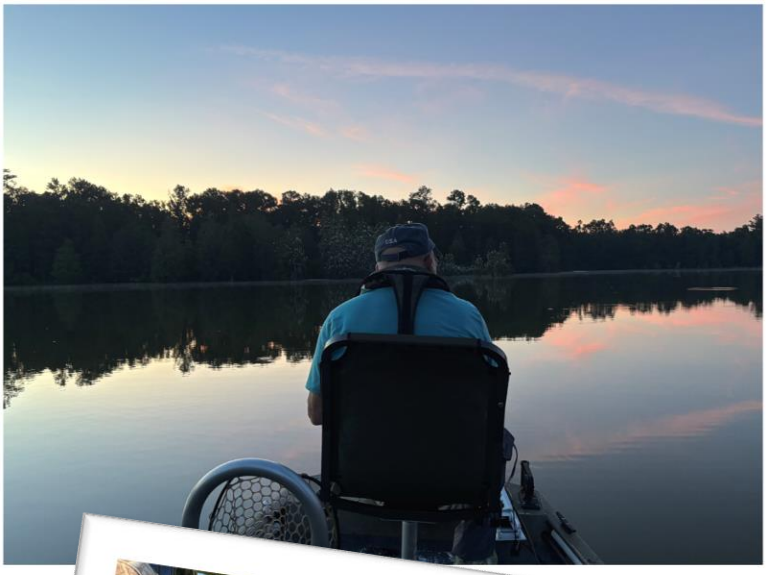
Dock Light Fishing by Guy Sanders

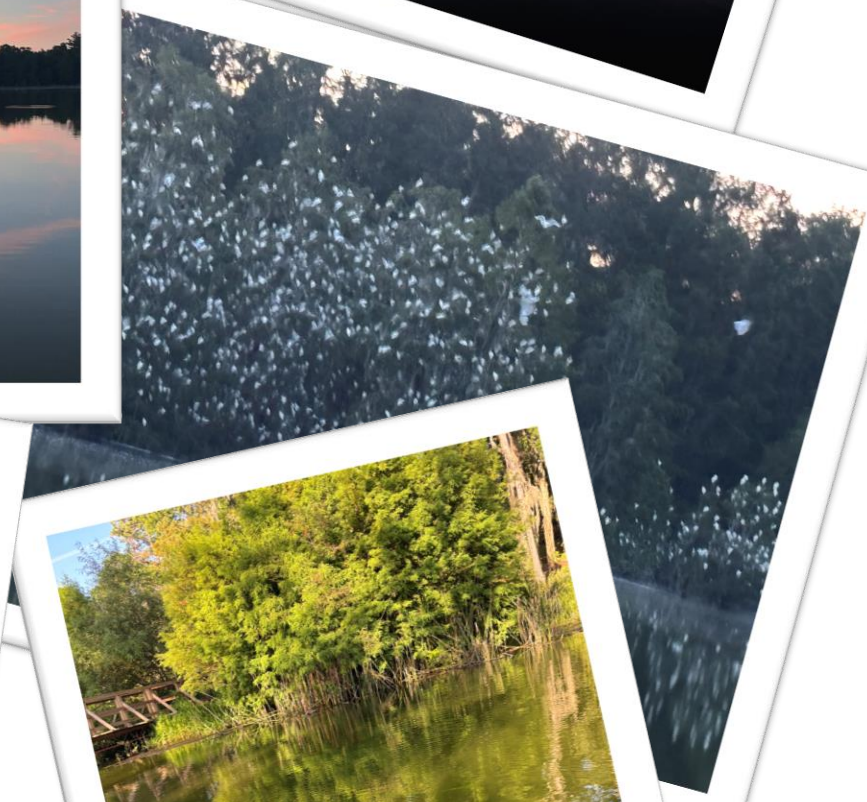
2025-09-04 Jupiter Snook

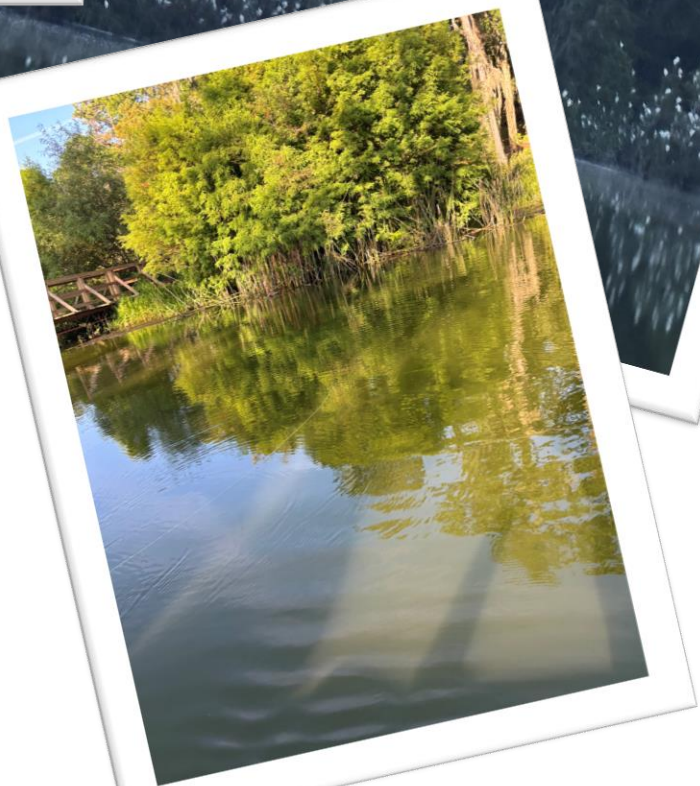
2025-08-20 Stuart Snook











FCFF - FLOOD TIDE FISHING IN NE FLORIDA – 4 August 2025

Andrew Mizell
Strike Zone Fly Shop

Tailing Reds are the main target. Sheepshead and rarely black drum are others.
Fish July - Nov water temp >65F crabs come out of hibernation
1st half season evening - black/purple
2nd half season morning tides - natural

For a good flood tide, the Mayport Bar Pilot high tide should be >= 5.4'
A great book about tides written by a FCFF member who has passed, is ***Beyond the Moon*** by James McCully. You can still buy it on Amazon. We have a description on our website at
https://www.fcff.org/books

A NE wind can add a few inches & west wind decreases.
Low pressure increases tides and vice versa
The baseline barometric pressure avg 29.92 inHg
A decrease to 29.82 means tides increase 0.1'
These changes happen gradually over a few days.
Go to NOAA and find what the actual tides have been to see if they are running much different than predicted.
For Mayport Bar Pilot:
https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/waterlevels.html?id=8720218

Fish the beginning of the tide near an inlet and follow the tide as it moves away from the inlet.
For example:
Fish near Nassau Sound and follow the tide S; Fish Simpson creek N to S (following the tide)
Or Vilano heading N
Also, the areas closer to the inter-coastal flood before areas further away

His simple leader is 4' 50 lb butt section and 25 lb tippet
Good flies are spoons, fingernail & clousers using black and purple, or orange colors. Need a good mono Weed-guard. Use a clinch knot to avoid a loop getting caught in the grass

If it doesn't flood, you can fish gurglers for slurping fish that are cruising along the perimeter of the flats
Pop it once, pull to get "v"

Flats have short brownish grass and hard bottom. The taller green grass that line the small creeks and flats have soft mud.
Sims neoprene booties work great for wading
If you're getting out of the boat, be sure to test the bottom with a paddle or pole first
Walk slowly, shuffling your feet to detect any soft areas
Avoid blocking finger creeks. These are the highways that fish use to enter and leave flats
Sheepshead are also targets, but difficult to catch. They like texture. Use Hard head or epoxy to give the fly a crunchy texture

FCFF September 2025 Outings Recap

Flood Tides Fishing

Good morning folks,

It's time for a short recap of last week's Wednesday outing and cancellation of Saturday's event.

We fly fishers know when the winds are a howling as they have been for the past two weeks, it is quite a challenge to navigate our watercraft and find and land our elusive prey, the redfish. Last week was no exception. Instead of being our "time to shine," with stories of great catches, it was some of the most challenging days I have experienced fishing out of the kayak. Tuesday and Wednesday were two of those days.

After some consultation with more experienced members, I changed the Wednesday outing location from Cedar Point to Saw Pit Creek Boat Ramp. The hope being that we might be able to have a little protection from the strong winds with the trees along A1A. While it offered some it was clearly not enough. Launching at 830a was breezy and not too bad, but as the morning moved closer to high tide, the winds picked up drastically. So much so that I had to tow my kayak while wading in the flooded grass near the shoreline until I could get to the tree line and paddle/pedal my way back to the ramp, which by the way was flooded by the extremely high tides. I ended up using the cactus lined bank of the access road to the ramp to land my kayak. The cacti stuck to my sneakers and embedded my right calf. Oh what a fun day!

After Tuesday's experience at Nocatee Kayak Launch and fishing the flats across from Pine Island, I cried "UNCLE" and Saturday's outing was called off due to continuing high winds. I want to thank Guy Sanders, Scott Pesci, Charlie Newton and Bill Loffer for joining me on Wednesday. At least we got some "participation points!" Charlie Newton, George Fleszar and yours truly braved Nocatee on Tuesday. Two consecutive days of getting an awesome workout but catching no fish was enough for me!

For October, we will hope for less winds and better fishing with another two outings planned for the Nocatee/Palm Valley area. An announcement letter coming soon.

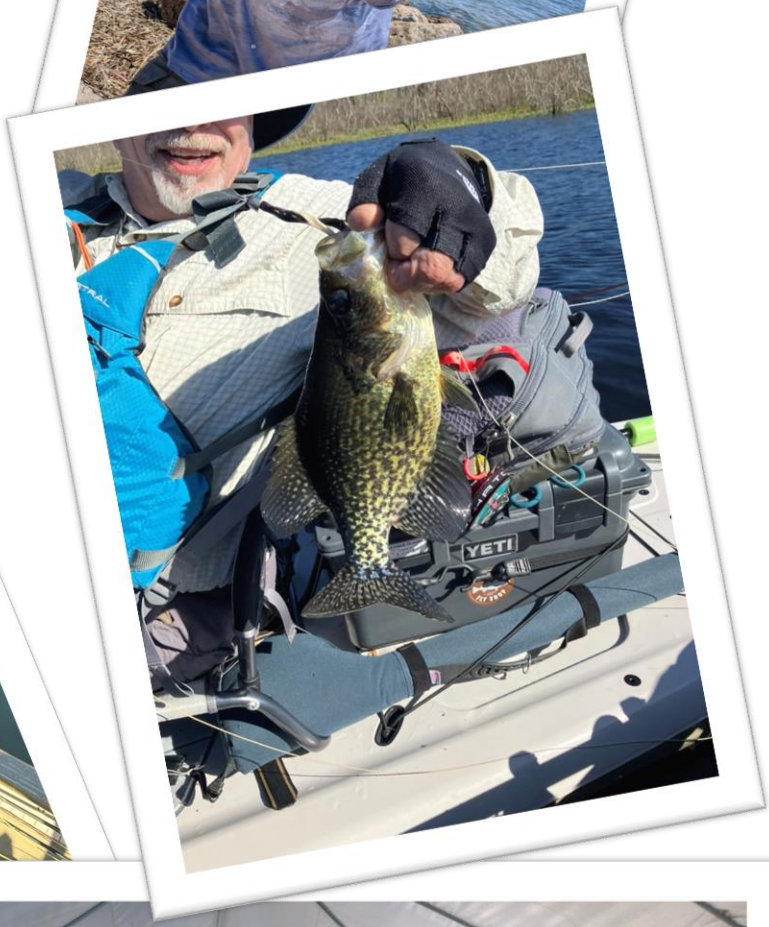
Don't forget about September's fly tying class on the 27th! Seats are limited. Rick Smith will be teaching his exceptional skill of fly tying. Emails with details have been sent out regarding this class.

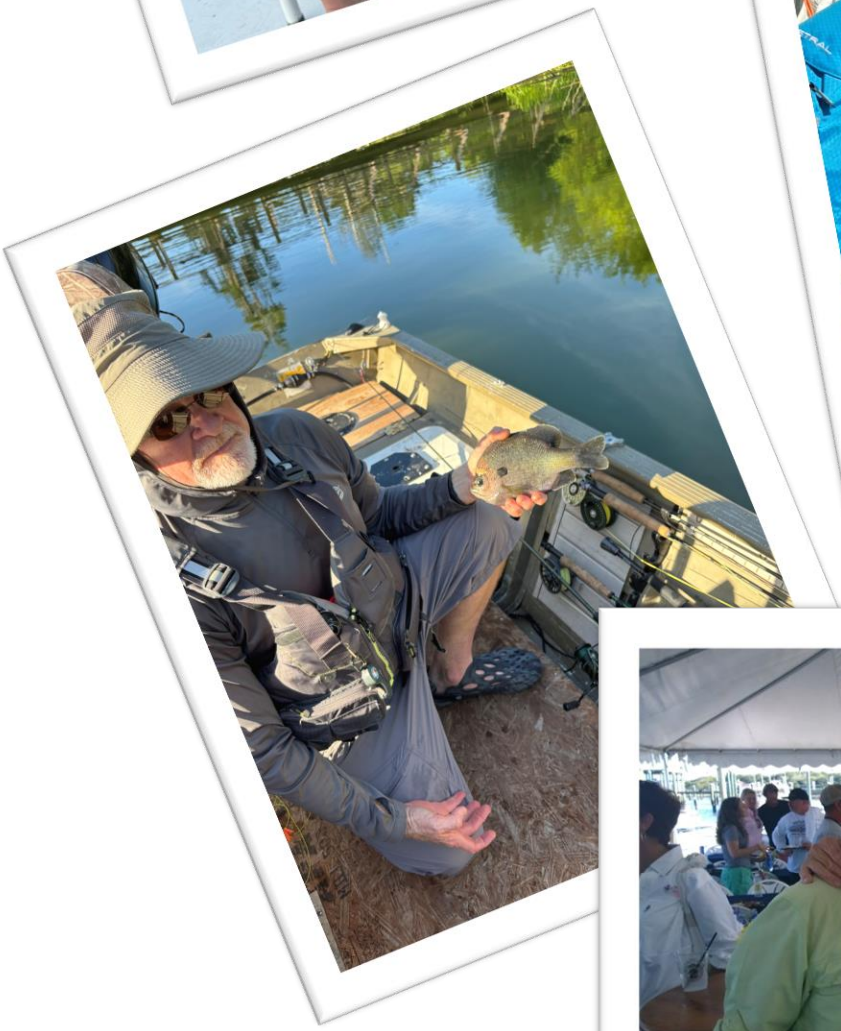
On another subject, prayers for Bob Hornbuckle as he heals from a bicycle fall and breaking a hip. I hear the surgery went well and recovery and rehab will sideline Bob for awhile.

Stay safe folks!

Richard Gragg/Outings

Members Pictures





Amazon Basin Peacock Bass

by Dana Griffin, III

By virtue of a set of circumstances that likely won't be often repeated, I found myself recently in a remote corner of the Amazon Basin trying to lure peacock bass to a fly. It was quite an experience. Maybe this qualifies as extreme fly fishing.

The adventure began when my wife and I were flown in a charter plane from Manaus 200 miles northwest to an isolated dirt airstrip that had been carved out of the jungle and runs along the north bank of the Unini River.

Peacock Bass Love Large Flies.
Photos; Dana Griffin,III and Jodi Slapcinski

The camp was located at one end of the airstrip. Our lodging was surprisingly comfortable. The room we were assigned came with two beds, a private bath and an air conditioner. Meals were served in an upstairs dining facility and consisted of a succession of entrees that included fish on some days, mainly peacock bass or piranha, and chicken or beef on other days. Nobody went hungry.

The fishing, undoubtedly to everyone's surprise, fell short of the vision painted in the slick brochures that we had read prior to making this trip. The river was up a tad, and this sent most of the fish back into the jungle and beyond the reach of even the most skilled caster. But this must be placed in context. Poor fishing in this part of the world means your daily score falls to the downside of 50 fish. Clients were still catching fish, but those who were back for a second or third time inevitably compared this season's lackluster results with previous trips when the angler would return to camp in the evening worn out from fighting monster peacocks that tore up equipment and left license holders with aching wrists and arms.

In a client pool of around 20 individuals, I was the only one fly fishing. My camp companions went after these coveted fish with saltwater spinning gear or beefed up bait casting rods. Reels were loaded with 80-lb. monofilament. Lures of choice included 6-8 inch woodchoppers (a surface plug bristling with treble hooks), zara spooks or banjo minnows.

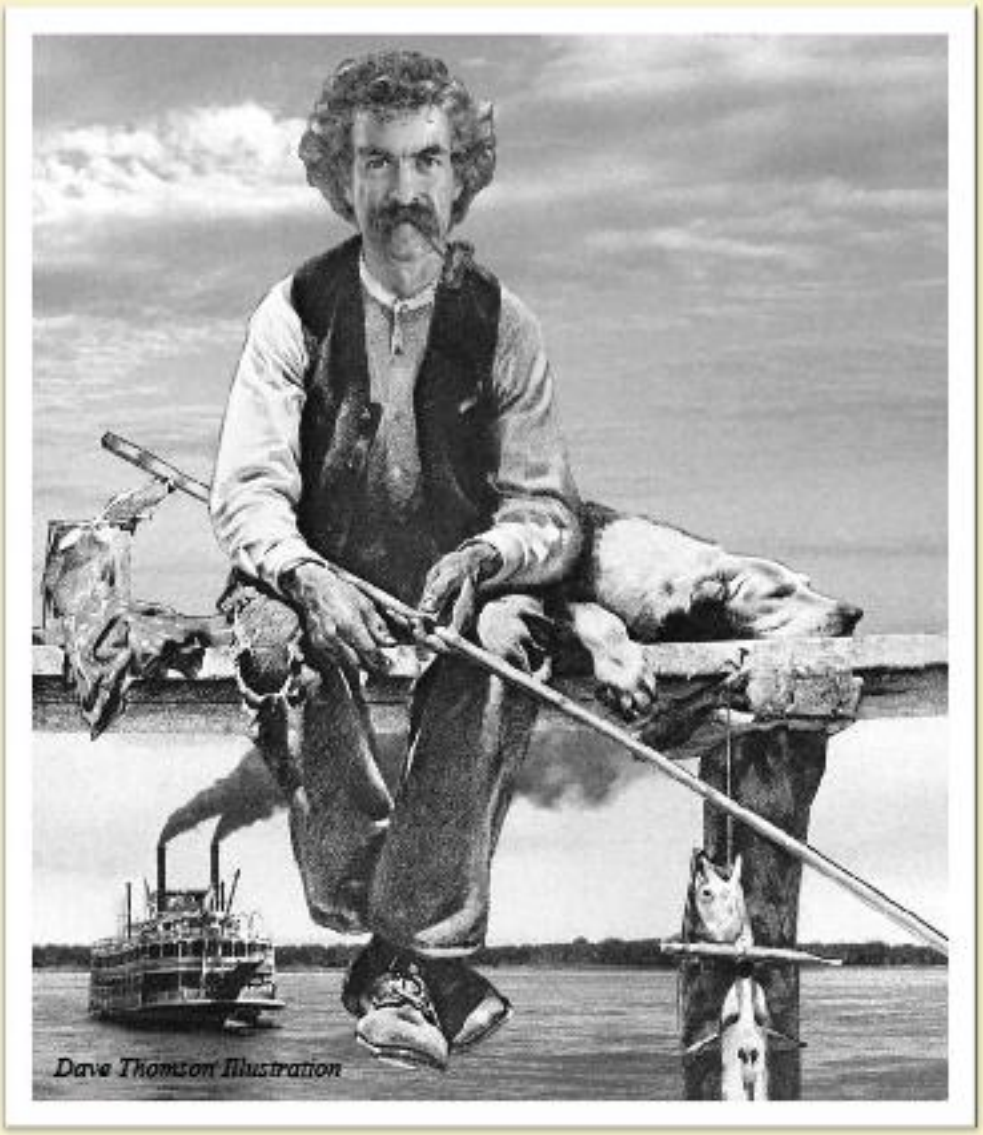
My approach required scaling down considerably the hardware to be used. Throwing caution to the wind, I stuck with my 8 weight rod, used a wimpy 5 foot length of 50 pound mono as a leader and alternated between 1/0 and 3/0 streamers.

Several normal considerations don't seem to apply on the Unini. Fly patterns for instance. The fish could care less what you sling at them. Stealthy approach. Forget it. The more noise your fly makes when it hits the surface, the better.

It was important to be able to cast accurately. Casts on the order of 40-60 feet were routine, but even more so, the fly often had to be delivered back amongst snags and overhanging limbs.

Of course I'll go back if the opportunity arises. Peacock bass fever is easily caught. To become infected normally requires little more than hooking your first one! If you think you'd like to join in this brand of fly fishing, visit the following website: www.PeacockBassTrips.com. It reminded me of snook fishing in the mangroves. Peacocks, like large-mouths and snook, avoid the heavy current of the river channel, preferring the vegetation choked margins of the river. This, plus their well deserved reputation for strength, makes every fish you boat a prize. Most of the fish I caught ranged from 2-5 pounds with one beauty coming to net that scaled at 11 pounds. Guides use boca grips in handling these fish. A peacock's teeth are not large but they are extremely sharp and can leave a thumb bloodied from trying to lip one.

(Ed. Note: Dana is our speaker this month. He's the ritired botanical curator of the Florida Museum of Natural History, an entymologyist, and a great fly tyer.)



"There is no use in your walking five miles to fish
when you can depend on being just as
unsuccessful near home."

-Mark Twain
Humorist

FCFF Logo Embroidered

Would you like to have the FCFF Logo embroidered on your fishing shirt?

Stitch by Stitch (904-405-3265), located inside the Orange Park Mall, near Books a Million will do it for $21.

FCFF Secretary, Jon Steinhilber, has graciously paid for the set-up fee. Jon will be more than glad to take and pick up any orders from club members.