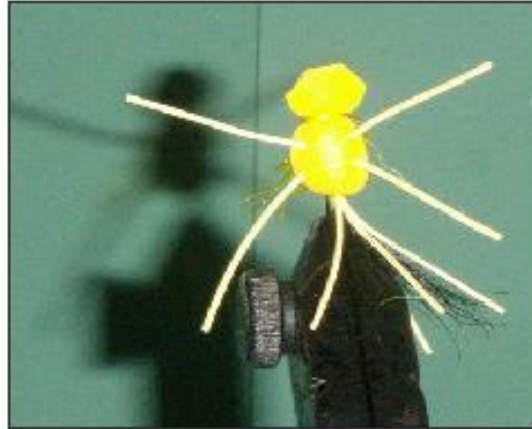


FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS CHRONICLE

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Feb 2024



Tying the Adams Cricket

Flies Evolve - Take On A Life of Their Own

FCFFer John Adams of Tocoi has tied this foam floating fly for nearly a decade. It has convinced many local panfishers to keep a few of varied colors in their fly boxes.

The Adams Cricket is one of those derivative flies that takes on a life of its own. It's become a truly useful bream catching tool. Taking its life from Jake Gartsides' Gurgler, the Adams Cricket morphed into a panfish fly that takes everything in the family – bluegills, stumpknockers, redbellies – even bass.

It's an easy fly to tie and it doesn't have to be a perfect tie. Part of its appeal is its bug-like spidery movement on the water's surface.

Tie up a few in varied colors to take on this month's resurrected Ocala State Park outing, July 25.

Material

Hook - standard size 10, 8, or 6. 34007, kinked shank, or light wire bream hook. **Craft foam** - purchase at any craft store or fly shop, buy the thinner sheet material, or try the double thickness foam for bigger flies. **Chenille** - Ice. Color to match foam or complement, medium size. **Rubber legs** - Color to match or complement chenille or foam - small size. **Calf, cat, or squirrel tail** of your color choice.

Instructions.

1. Tie a small clump of calf, cat, or squirrel tail on top of the bend of the hook
2. Select standard length rubber legs. Fold them around tying thread and tie them on top of the hair at the hook bend.
3. Next, advance the thread toward the eye of the hook and stop about 1/8" from the eye.
4. Cut craft foam into strips 3/8" wide for bream flies or 1/2" for Bass flies (# 6 or # 4 hooks).
5. Lay the foam strip on top of the hook with the tip just covering the hook eye. Then bend the foam downward along the shank of the hook from about 3/16" behind hook eye to bend. This allows the foam to flair and provide support for the second layer of foam. Wrap the foam using raps spaced about 1/8" apart. Stop at the bend of the hook.
6. Now tie in the chenille and then advance the thread forward again stopping short at the starting point. Wrap the chenille forward and tie it in at the starting point.
7. Next, take the tag-end of the foam strip and pull it forward toward the hook eye and tie it off at the starting point of the thread. Use a whip finish knot to tie off.



Camp Weed Outing Recap January 26-28, 2024

FCFF Members,

I would like to express my thanks to all the fly fishermen who came out this weekend and contributed to what was a successful outing event. We had 14 in attendance over the three days, plus Dick with a cameo appearance to pass out some secret weapons. A good many fish were landed, including some very nice bass and crappie, not to mention the usual large bluegill. Kudos to George Fleszar who caught a healthy five-pound, possibly six-pound, bass. Yes, we have pictures. We had kayaks, power boats, canoes, and shore fishermen. The weather was almost ideal, except for a little more wind on Sunday morning.

We had good fellowship and dinner on the evenings of Friday and Saturday, at the fan favorites "Big Wood BBQ" and "The 406 On Duval." Some went to the "Dixie Grill" for breakfast too. You gotta love the good local cooking.

White Lake is a favorite location of mine and I hope those who were there for the first time enjoyed themselves and even took home a few crappie for themselves. Some think a state record crappie could be lurking in the depths of White Lake. Wouldn't that be a hoot!

The plans are to have another outing in May. That outing may have a crappie fish fry, as suggested by Guy Sanders. Hotdogs will be on hand as a backup in case the fish aren't biting and aren't willing to join us. The exact weekend has not been determined, so stay tuned for further updates.

Hope to see everyone at next Monday's meeting!

Richard Gragg
Outings Coordinator

Camp Weed Outing – January 2024



FCFF February 5th Meeting presents... Joe Scherer

Joe Scherer, a seasoned fly fishing enthusiast, is well-known in the **Titusville, Florida** area for his expertise in angling. [Titusville, situated on the shores of the Indian River Lagoon and close to the Mosquito Lagoon, offers excellent fishing opportunities for both locals and visitors alike¹.](#)

Here are some notable aspects related to fly fishing in the Titusville region:

1. Mosquito Lagoon: This world-famous fishing spot is renowned for its **seatrout** and **redfish**. The endless flats, coves, and miles of shorelines provide countless places to cast your line. Larger schools of big-breeder-sized redfish group up during the summer months, making it an exciting destination for anglers. [Beating the heat is essential, so early starts are recommended².](#)

2. Indian River Lagoon: As Titusville's eastern border, the Indian River Lagoon offers many great fishing opportunities. Summer rains cause natural creeks from the nearby Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge to flow into the lagoon, creating feeding stations for various target fish. These freshwater currents flush small shrimp and baitfish out of the marsh, attracting predatory gamefish. [Fishing early mornings and late afternoons yields the best results, as the midday sun puts the fish in siesta mode¹.](#)

3. Port Canaveral: Located just 20 minutes from Titusville, Port Canaveral provides diverse fishing options. Whether you're inside the harbor, on the beaches, or near the reef, this area offers abundant fish-holding locations. Seasonal influxes of migratory menhaden (pogies) bring tarpon, snook, sharks, and other species. [Calm seas and light winds during the summer make it an ideal time to explore the nearshore waters of the Atlantic¹.](#)

If you're passionate about fly fishing, Titusville is a prime destination with a variety of fishing experiences waiting to be explored!

2024 FCFF Rendezvous February 17th, 2024

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM



Featuring Jon Cave

Victory Lutheran Church,
4651 Kernan Blvd. S, Jacksonville FL 32224

Fly fishing is often referred to as "the peak of the angler's art." Our guest Fly casing instructor is Jon Cave. An author/photographer/lecturer and a USCG licensed guide. He has been a professional fly casting and fly-tying instructor for over 25 years and is the founder of the longest established flyfishing school in the South. [<http://Jon B Cave Fly Fishing School>] <https://www.jonbcaveflyfishing.com/> Jon has taught thousands of students and trained guides.

Bring your fly rod with a leader and hookless fly or colorful yarn. **NO HOOKS** We'll learn new casts, distance casts, roll casts and more, but also, where to use these casts, how to look for and find fish, rigging, leaders and knots. The program will cater to all skill levels.

Come hungry! We'll have coffee and donuts available in the morning. Plan on a delicious catered lunch.

In the raffle and silent auction, we've got rods, reels, lines and much more useful stuff for the fly fisher - be sure to buy enough raffle tickets.

FCFF Member Tickets are \$40 per person. Children 18 and under \$20. Ticket costs for Non-FCFF Members are \$140 and include the cost of an annual membership (\$100/family).

If you plan to pay at the door, please let us know by February 10 so we can get an accurate head count for meals.

All memberships paid by the February 5th Meeting are eligible for the Members-Only raffle at the Rendezvous.

See you there!



How Rod Action Affects Your Cast

By Bruce Richards

from the FFF Master Instructor Test Study Guide.

All fly rods are not born equal. Most of the fly rods built today cast very well, but differences in flex or 'action' can have a big impact on how they cast. Understanding the differences in these basic rod 'actions' and what you need to do to adjust your casting stroke to make them cast well, can make you more effective with any rod.

Over the years I've heard many times that a beginner should start casting with a soft, slow, forgiving rod. In reality, very soft, flexible rods can be difficult to cast, especially for beginners. These rods are prone to throwing tailing loops because they are easy to overload, causing the rod tip to travel in a downward, arcing path. To prevent this from happening takes a very smooth casting stroke, something that takes most anglers some time to master. A beginner may be doing everything almost right but still get consistently tailing loops that can be very frustrating, all because of the slow action of their rod. Casting a lighter line can help some, but a long, smooth stroke is still necessary.

At the other extreme are stiff, fast action rods. These rods are very tailing loop resistant, but there are other issues that can make them difficult to cast, especially for inexperienced casters. Because these rods don't load or bend much when casting at normal distances the angler doesn't have the

feeling of direct contact with the line. This vague feeling can make it difficult to determine the timing of the cast. Since there is little rod load at short to medium distances it is often necessary to cast harder with a stiff rod which often results in wider, inefficient loops if the stroke isn't just right.

Fast rods are excellent for long distance casts. They are made to work well when carrying longer than normal lengths of line in the air; this loads them properly. If an angler doesn't want to cast long, or isn't capable, fast rods can be very frustrating to use. Fortunately there is an easy fix to this problem. Using a line one or even two sizes heavier than the rod is rated for supplies the load that the rod requires to work well, but at a shorter distance.

As you have probably guessed, a rod with an action somewhere between very slow and very fast is right for most anglers in most applications. Fortunately, most of the popular rods made today fall into this medium action category. They are stiff enough to cast non-tailing loops when cast reasonably well at normal fishing distances. They are soft enough to load well at the same distances, while giving the angler good feel of the line. While maybe not the ultimate short distance spring creek rod, or long distance cannon, medium action rods handle most day to day fishing casts with ease, without major casting stroke adjustments.

From April/2009 FCF Newsletter.