

First Coast Fly Fisher

January 2006

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL

Happy New Year



Rich Santos With A Red To Be Happy About

MEETING & SPEAKER

FCFF Meeting: Monday, January 9 -- An Evening with Master Fly Tyer Bill Sherer -- Could there be any better way to start off the new year than by beefing up your fly tying skills? Bill is one of the 40 master fly tyers in the world. His specialty is synthetics and he's will display and demo much of the new material that's so beneficial all waters -- trout, bass, and salt water.

COMING EVENTS

January 21 & 22 -- FCFF Banquet and Fly Fishing Weekend - Join us for a weekend with Master Casting Instructors and Worldwide Fly Fishers Capts. **Gary and Wanda Taylor**. Saturday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m. to 1:30 casting, tying, and rigging instruction for the whole club. Saturday night, FCFF Banquet, UNF Conference Center. Sunday -- Intensive Casting and Fly Tying with Gary and Wanda; 16 persons only, \$50 for the day. Sign up at the January meeting or email David Lambert, d.lambert@onwatermedia.com.

Banquet Weekend Jan. 21 & 22

An Evening and A Day with Gary & Wanda Taylor



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, Jan. 21-22.**

As most of you know, this is a weekend where FCFEers get to learn from some of the finest instructors/personalities in our sport. This year we are

pleased to present **Gary and Wanda Taylor**, husband and wife team of certified master casting instructors. If you watch fly fishing TV, you've seen Gary and Wanda burn up the airwaves this year.

Gary has just completed a 12 DVD fly tying and fishing set with Welsh tying great Davy Wotton. Wanda is a featured player in Casting for Recovery, a non-profit that provides help and support for survivors of breast cancer. Both Gary and Wanda are on the production advisory team for Temple Fork Outfitters fly rods. Gary is a former two-time Orvis Guide of the Year and in-demand trout and saltwater guide. Wanda was the world's first woman to receive the prestigious master casting instructors certification.

Here's the weekend lineup:

Saturday morning: 9 a.m. meet for a club wide clinic with Gary and Wanda Taylor. This is your clinic -- Gary and Wanda are happy to diagnose casting, teach tying, or explain rigging for everything from brook trout to tarpon. The clinic ends around 1:30 p.m.

Saturday evening: Annual Banquet at UNF Conference Center. Lots of prizes, drawings, raffles, and a huge silent auction. This year Gary Taylor has arranged for FCFE to receive all 12 of Fly Fish TV newest DVDs, which include segments by the world's best fly casters, fly fishers, and fly tyers. If you attended last year, you know the banquet was a bang-up success; the food was great and the prizes were exceptional.

Sunday, Jan 22: 16 lucky FCFEers join Gary and Wanda Taylor for an exciting, informative **day of casting, tying, and rigging** -- and some interesting other stuff thrown in. Cost is \$50 per person. They'll likely still be a couple of openings at the January meeting. Contact David Lambert to sign up, d.lambert@onwatermedia.com or call 241-4163.

Homer Bliss is the banquet chair this year. He's promised lots of goodies and a great time. Contact Homer with questions or to register for the banquet, hbliss@bellsouth.net.

2 See you there.

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Fish Beneath 1000-Foot Sandstone Cliffs

by Tom Regina

In northwest Arizona, 110 miles north of Flagstaff, the outflow of Lake Powell from the bottom of Glenn Canyon Dam forms the Lee's Ferry tailwater fishery. Some anglers describe the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry as "the worlds largest spring creek." In reality it is a big clear-flowing tailwater trout fishery running 15.5 miles from the Glenn Canyon Dam to the upper end of the Grand Canyon.

The Lee's Ferry portion through Glenn Canyon is a year-round fishery with predominantly wild rainbow trout and a few brook and cutthroats, the "normal" or average size around 11 - 14 inches. But there are lots of them.

The Colorado River carves an extraordinary landscape with intricate mazes and massive rock monoliths within Glenn Canyon. Glenn Canyon is a stunning place, as John Gierach would say, "standing in a river waving a stick." The Glenn Canyon Cliffs are millions of years old, 1000-foot high, fossilized sand dunes sculptured by the Colorado.

As you wade the crystal clear waters casting for trout, you can't help but pause time and time again to take in the sights of your surroundings. Not only will you see the fish you are stalking but chances are you will see great blue herons, golden eagles, wild ducks, beaver, and even a condor soaring on a thermal updraft - did you miss that strike? Pay attention to the task at hand.

There is little access for walk-in fishing within Glenn Canyon. Most anglers hire a guide with a boat, rent a jet boat, or motor up river in their own boat to anchor at gravel bars and wade. The National Park Service operates a full hook-up campground at Glenn Canyon National Recreation Area and several primitive camp sights along the river in Glenn Canyon. Other accommodations are available on highway 89A in Marble Canyon, AZ.

Karen Brand of Pensacola and I recently fished Lee's Ferry. Karen was in Las Vegas on business.

We booked the fishing part of the trip through Bob Marriott's Flyfishing Store Travel Center and made our headquarters at Lee's Ferry Anglers Cliff Dwellers Lodge, Restaurant, and Fly Shop complex at Marble Canyon about seven



Tom Regina and Karen Brand

miles from Lee's Ferry. The fly shop, lodge, and restaurant are located at the base of Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and centrally located for Lee's Ferry fishing, Colorado River raft trips, Grand Canyon National Park visits, and wildlife viewing and photography.

Lee's Ferry Anglers is owned and operated by Terry and Wendy Gunn. Terry and Wendy have been featured in many fly fishing magazines and fly fishing instruction and destination videos.

Next morning, our guide Skip Dixon came in and gave us a

briefing on fishing tactics and what to expect for the next two days. Skip doesn't think of himself as a guide. He's a fly fishing coach. And as it turned out Skip is a top notch guide - I mean coach.

Our two days of guided fishing with Skip Dixon started after breakfast each day when we met Skip at 8 AM at Lee's Ferry boat ramp. Skip would launch the 20-foot shallow draft, covered, and heated, jet boat. We would stow our gear and head up river where we were soon wade fishing from gravel bars or grass flats with Skip at our side giving direction, tying knots, and releasing fish.

The air temperature in the mornings was well below freezing and the rod guides stayed iced. By about 10 a.m. it started to warm up and by lunch time it was close to a 46 degree heat wave. The water temperature stayed a constant 52 degrees throughout the day. In the afternoon the air temperatures start back down - a signal for Skip to head back to the boat ramp, pull the boat before dark, and get us back to the restaurant.

In two days of angling we landed about 17 rainbows each. However as much as she tried, the Karen the Crackleback Queen caught no fish on her cracklebacks. What did she do? The word going around is the Queen resorted to egg patterns as a dropper with split shot on her string to get the eggs down. I could confirm Karen did these sins, however, because I promised her I would never tell anyone of her transgressions, I won't confirm that she used eggs and lead. After all a man has to stick to his word or fish alone.

Also, if you're kind enough not to ask how much each fish cost, we won't have to figure it out.

Edson's Dark Tiger

by Tom Regina

The Edson Dark Tiger is a famous pattern developed by William R. Edson from Maine's Rangely Lakes area in the early 1900's. We could however change the name to Edson Blind Dark Tiger. The original Edson Dark Tiger had cheeks of jungle cock feather to represent baitfish eyes. Because of the high cost of a jungle cock cape (a prime quality jungle cock cape may sell for \$200 or more) we will forgo the cheeks or eyes; thus Edson Blind Dark Tiger. As an option to jungle cock eyes I have used golden pheasant tippets on some streamers.

Tying Instructions

Hook: Mustad 3665A, size 8

Thread: Yellow 3/0

Tag: Flat gold Mylar tinsel

Tail: Two yellow hackle tips

Body: Fine yellow chenille

Throat: Two red hackle tips

Wing: Brown bucktail dyed yellow

Head: Yellow 8/0 thread and epoxy

1. Debarb and mount the hook in the vise. Using a jam



knot, start the thread two hook eyes distance back from the hook eye. In touching tight turns lay down a smooth neat

thread base along the hook shank to about the mid point on the hook shank.

2. Cut about a five inch long piece of Mylar tinsel from the spool and tie it on top of and parallel to the hook shank. Continue tying down the Mylar with touching thread turns along the top of the hook shank and down the hook bend to a point opposite the hook barb. In quick spiral turns return the thread forward to a distance about one-half inch from the hook bend.

3. To form the tag wrap the Mylar tinsel forward in slightly overlapping turns to where the thread bobbin is hanging from the hook. Tie off the tinsel and cut away the

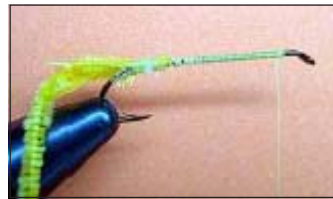


tag ends.

4. For the tail tie in two yellow hackle tips on top of the hook shank so they extend about one hook gap distance behind the hook bend.

5. Cut about a six inch piece of chenille from the skein. Tie it in on top of the tail tie in thread wraps with about five inches of the chenille extending in back of the hook.

Cut away the chenille tag end. In quick spiral turns return the thread to the thread tie on point at the front of the



hook. Make several whip or half hitch wraps of thread.

6. In touching turns wrap the chenille forward to the thread tie on point. Tie off the chenille and cut away the tag end.

7. Invert the hook in the vise and tie in the two red hackle tips for the throat. The throat hackle tips should



extend about one quarter inch back over the chenille body along the bottom of the hook shank. Trim the hackle tip butts as close to the front thread wraps as possible. Cover the hackle butt ends with thread wraps and wrap thread up to the eye then back two hook eyes distance.



8. For the wing cut a portion of hair from the bucktail. Remove any under hair. Stack the hair

and tie it in on top of the hook at the head



of the fly. The length of the wing should be even with the back of the tail. At a shallow angle cut away the butt ends of the bucktail wing.

9. Make several whip or half hitch wraps. Cut away the thread. Using a jam knot tie on the 8/0 thread and form a neat thread head. Whip finish or half hitch the thread to finish tying the head. Cut away the thread. Epoxy the thread head.

Good Friends and Big Trout Makes Fine Christmas Holiday For Montana Transplant

FCFFerGreg Howick, USN, spent Christmas on his home waters near Billings, Montana. Here's his Christmas season fishing report:

"The first week was 8 degrees below zero. I started fishing heavy in week two; it was up to 60 degrees most days. There was absolutely no snow in my area. Lots of traffic on the river some days, and other days, we were all alone. I caught at least 50 trout, 40 some of which were browns. Caught the browns and rainbows streamers. Most of the fish were over 18 inches, many were over 20 inches. Dad, Hugh, and another friend got into them too. With the exception of a couple, most all the big 18+ trout I caught was using a sink tip line with a heavy streamer. On one run, I had hooked up 4 times in a row, almost 5. ALL hogs. Landed two beautiful rainbows out of it. Met up with old friend Bob Krumm on the river, and also two teachers I had in high school."



FOR SALE

2001 Hells Bay 17.8 Professional—This boat does it all and is the ultimate redfish boat. Center console release well fully plumbed, '01 60-hp Mercury with 4-blade SS prop, depth finder, Garmin GPSMAP 182, 12-volt MotorGuide motor package with footswitch on poling platform, forward casting platform, Ritchie compass, Ram-Lin Trailer with spare hub, bearings and tire, plumbed baitwell, Stiffy push pole, Ted Juracsik pole holder, well maintained runs great. Asking \$23,750 or best offer. Contact Info Below.

1990 Dolphin Super Skiff—Bullet proof skiff that is quiet and poles skinny. Handles rough water with no problem. Rated for 4 people. 1998 90-HP Yamaha with 107 hours. Shurflo wash down. Bennett trim tabs with new motor. Recently rewired. Has all new bilge pump, batteries, tires, water pump, thermostat and bearings. Spare tire. Loads of rod holders, flow through bait well with pump. Edson wheel with speed knob, 12-volt Minn Kota Riptide with builtin Guess charger. Rare find. Asking \$11,000 or best offer.

TiCr Temple Fork Rods-8-10wt. for sale. Best offer. Contact Warren Hinrichs whinrichs@comcast.net or call cell (904) 703-2280 or home (904) 448-5779.

FWC Offers Military Gold Sportsman's License

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is providing service men and women a new hunting/fishing license.

The Military Gold Sportsman's License is available to active duty and retired military who are stationed in Florida or have lived in Florida for six months and claim Florida as their primary residence. The reduced-fee annual license (\$20) includes hunting, salt and fresh water fishing, wildlife management area, archery, muzzle loading gun, turkey, Florida waterfowl, snook and crawfish permits.

The Military Gold Sportsmans Licenses are only available at tax collectors' offices. Those wishing to purchase one must show their military ID card plus a Florida driver's license or orders showing they are stationed in Florida.

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Enter as many times as you like at \$20 per chance Information needed on each entry is name, address, phone number, and email. For more information email Wanda Taylor, wanda@taylor-taylor.com, brooksideguides@charter.net, or contact David Lambert at the January club meeting.

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