

# First Coast Fly Fisher

February 2007

[www.fcff.org](http://www.fcff.org)

Jacksonville, FL



**Catch Your Winter Redfish at This Month's Clapboard Creek Outing.**

See Below For Details. Above, Dick Michaelson with a Clapboard Red.

## MEETING & SPEAKER

**FCFF Meeting Monday, Feb. 5** -- Meeting at 7p.m. at the Southpoint Marriott. Come hear Capt. Bill Sherer of Northern Wisconsin and Titusville. Bill is a triple treat -- he cut his teeth on trout, smallies, and musky, but now winters and guides in Titusville. He's also a highly skilled Master Fly Tyer and a truly innovative materials guy. Come watch him and learn with a video cam and Television set up as Bill ties and explains his patterns and why they work.

## COMING EVENTS

**Saturday, 3 -- Members Casting and Instruction Day with Jennifer Olsson** -- at M & M Dairy, 9:30 a.m. -- 1:30 p.m. Come learn interesting and unusual casting and fishing from world traveler and writer.

**Saturday Feb 3, Banquet** -- \$1000s in raffles, drawings, and a free kayak from the Salty Feather Fly Shop. 6:30 at the UNF Conference Center. Jenifer Olsson, international fly fisher, guide, writer, and casting instructor. Sign up by no later than Friday, Feb 2.

**Sunday Feb 4 Intensive Casting and Tying Day with Jennifer Olsson.** Contact David Lambert to sign up for this 16 person event. We still have some slots left, so contact David Lambert to sign up -- 904-241-4163 or email to [dlambert@onwatermedia.com](mailto:dlambert@onwatermedia.com). Free to members, but limited to the first 16 casters.

**Saturday, Feb 17 -- Clapboard Creek Low Tide Redfish Outing** -- This is the perfect time to test your sight fishing mettle. Winter clears our water and the fish warm themselves on the dark mud flats. Launch from Clapboard Boat Ramp. Contact Woody Huband for information. [Whuband@yahoo.net](mailto:Whuband@yahoo.net)

# Jennifer 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 **Jennifer Olsson**, a fly-fishing instructor and writer who splits her year between Montana and Sweden.

If you watch fly fishing TV, you've seen Jennifer and her husband Lars 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

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 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 Jennifer. She 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 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 free for a limited number. 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, hbliss@bellsouth.net.



Rick Palazzini with Peacock Bass

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# Anatomy of a Fly Line

*What Is The Plastic String You're Tossing Around?*

*by Pat Hinchliffe*

*(Ever wonder about the fly line you throw? What's it made of? What's at its core? How much will it stretch? What does the 'weight numbering system' mean? Below is a short course in fly lines written by angler Pat Hinchliffe of the Pikes Peak Flyfishers -- that's in Colorado. Enjoy and learn. -- The Editor)*

The "weight" of a fly line is based on the weight, in grains, of the front 30 feet of fly line. This standardization of fly line rating allows line and rod manufacturers to coordinate their efforts in designing rods and lines that are perfectly matched with each other. At the time that these standards were adopted, 30 feet was considered a reasonable length of line needed to adequately load the rod.

Since rod stiffness has changed over the years, many line manufacturers are now "pushing" the weights of their lines to the top end of the spectrum to help fully load the newer rod materials. Some anglers routinely move up a line weight for a specific rod.

The lines and weight most fly fishers are concerned with are:

<u>Line weight</u>	<u>Grain Weight of 1st 30'</u>
3	94-106
4	114-126
5	134-146
6	152-168
7	177-193
8	202-218
9	230-250

While there are literally dozens of fly line brands in the world, all of them are made by one of only 7 manu-



facturers. They are Cortland, Rio, Scientific Anglers, Monic, Northern Sport Fishing Products, Airflo and Shakespeare. The first 4 are located in the US.

Basically, all fly lines are nothing more than a core covered in a coating. All the characteristics of a fly line, its weight, whether it floats or sinks, if it is weight forward or double taper, are controlled by those 2 factors. Applying the coating is by far the most important and secretive part of the process.

The cores of all fly lines are typically made of braided nylon, solid nylon mono or hollow core nylon fiber. Kevlar, Dacron and other synthetics have been tried

over the years, but, so far, nothing works as well nylon. Braided nylon is the most common, since it retains the least coil memory and is the supplest, especially in cold weather. Typical break strengths for braided cores are 12 pound test for 3 weight and lighter, 20 pound test for 4-8 weight and 30 pound test for 9 weight and heavier.

Once the core is made, stretched, dyed, singed and heat set, it's ready for the secret coating process to begin. This is where things get complicated very quickly. The core is passed through a series of dyes where the coating is applied. These dyes open and close at specific times to allow the coating to build up or be reduced, thus producing the tapers. All these processes have been done on 2,500 foot lengths of line. After coating, the lines are cut to length in the right spots, hand inspected, boxed, labeled and shipped to stores around the world.

*(Editor's Tip: Line maintenance doesn't take much time. A simple rinse is usually sufficient when you finish fishing. When I fish twice a week or so, I'll occasionally pull all my line off the reel into a bucket of clean water with a tiny bit of dish soap. I'll pull the line through a wash cloth, rinse it, then dry it, before reeling it back onto the reel. Simple.)*

# How's Your Guide Rate Your Casting?

*Your Casting Skills Play A Part In Where You'll Be Fishing*

by David Lambert

Ever wonder what a guide thinks of your casting?

As a rule, poor casters oversell their ability. Guides know this. I think it's more self deception – wishful thinking – than intentional misdirection. Regardless, most guides would rather have a sigmoidoscopy than spend a day guiding a cruddy caster. It's rarely a joyful experience, for caster or coach.

Some clients blame the guide for their lack of fish; some endure the frustration; some just quit. A smart client will turn it into a learning experience. Learn as much as he or she can from the guide about where and how to catch fish. One problem we instructors see is that anglers frequently view their guides as qualified casting instructors. Fact is, many guides are not good casting instructors, contrary to what they'd have you believe.

And this compounds the problem — an inexperienced caster being taught by an untrained casting coach.

Part of the direction of the FFF casting certification program is to codify casting instruction – to make the language and science concepts uniform so it can be taught pretty much the same way wherever classes and clinics are held. One of the groups of people who we want to target are the guides. It's a natural connection. A casting savvy guide will produce better anglers. They'll be less frustrated, the guide's will be happier, and the sport will benefit.

Here's an observation from Dr. Gary Eaton, a FFF certified instructor and a physical rehabilitation medicine physician. This is from casting forum for master certified instructors and students that I participate in

“A friend who is an FFF instructor told me of the salt water guide who hands a rod and line to clients as if he were getting the gear together and says, “Go straighten the line off that reel for me, please. You can go over there in the water and just throw it all out straight to get the kinks out of it.”

He had been fishing with this guide before and asked him what he was doing?

The guide said - “My biggest nightmare is the man who has only trout fished before hitting this big water. I'll watch him a little and if he empties the reel casting the line, we'll go fishing. It only has 70 feet of line on it.”

When asked what might happen if he only unloaded 30 or 40 feet the guide responded.

“Then we'll go to a little cove where there may be a few small fish and I will give him a casting lesson. If he gets tuned-up and



can cast well-enough, I will then let him fish some of my better spots.”

When asked why he didn't make the demands of my friend, he said, “You are a certified casting instructor and I watched you from the dock before I introduced myself. I had already seen you cast.”

This may be the other extreme of teaching **instead** of guiding but, in some environments it could be the better value and an appropriate priority. My experience is that casters with serious casting faults generally over state their

ability and people who know they are pretty good don't oversell themselves and seek guidance because that's how they got to be good.

When someone falls in between I ask about fishing then about casting. What gear they intend to use for the situation can also tell you if they have a good idea of what is involved. For example –

“Where do you usually fish?” “What weight rod do you use for that?” “How far is the longest cast there?” “Are those fish very spooky?” “How big a fly do they like?” “What line do you use for that?” “Where did you learn to fly cast?” “How much do you practice?”

The answers to these questions will give me a pretty good idea of what's in store for a lesson or a day on the water. Another hint is the condition of the angler and their gear.

If everything is pristine and new and smells of the packaging, I have to see them work. If they have the ‘big box’ store brand combo, my expectations are a little lower. If they have the quality gear in the right combination and the reel is beat-up a little, we could have a great fish. The client who deftly hauls the gear and loads it up in an organized fashion and isn't breathing hard after that gives me a little confidence. The guy who looks like he just got furloughed from the recliner in the den and has the color and dimensions of a marshmallow deserves a little extra care. I enjoy most everybody. It's my job to observe and anticipate.”

I think the message from Dr. Gary's guide friend, and I like his method of quick rating fly casters. My message to you is this: Bone up on your casting before go casting for bones. It will make your guide happier, and you'll be happier with your guide. Both of you will be happier with your fish count.

# Teal BWO Nymph

*A Standard Fly For Every Fresh Water Angler*

by Jerry Aldridge, Fly Fishers of NW FL

The Teal Baetis Nymph imitation represents a blue wing olive (BWO) nymph. The original fly was tied by Scott Sanchez and is fully described in his book "A New Generation of Trout Flies," ISBN 0-9746427-4-6, published by Wild River Press.



Lift the barb butts out of the way and in spiral turns wrap the thread forward to about 1/16 inch in back of the bead.

3. To make the abdomen, use hackle pliers or other



suitable tool to slightly twist the barb butts and wrap them forward in touching turns to the thread hang point. Tie off the abdomen with two or three tight overlapping thread wraps. Cut away the excess barb lengths. Counter wrap the rib wire forward in 5 or 6 evenly spaced spiral turns to the thread hang point. Tie off the wire and cut away the butt. Dub a small thorax that will cover the forward ends of the abdomen and wire.

4. In front of the thorax but in back of the bead tie in a partridge hackle feather by its tip. Hackle the feather between the thorax and bead one and a half turns to form a sparse collar. Tie off and cut away the excess feather stem and barbs. Half hitch or whip finish and cut away the thread. Apply a small amount of head cement to the finished thread wraps using caution not to get cement on the collar fibers.



## Materials

Hook -- Mustad C49S, size 14; Weight -- Olive green size 11/0 glass bead; Thread -- UNI-Thread 8/0, tan Tail Teal flank feather barbs; Abdomen -- Teal flank feather barbs; Rib Fine silver wire; Thorax -- Spirit River Depth Advantage dark olive dubbing; Collar -- Natural Hungarian partridge feather

## Tying Instructions

1. Debarb the hook and put a bead on the hook. Place the hook in the vise. Tie the thread to the hook shank directly in back of the bead and lay down a thread base back to the point on the hook shank directly over the hook barb.

Tie in a length of silver rib wire by wrapping the thread forward and back over the wire tag end. Cut away the excess wire tag end.

2. For the tail and abdomen select a good quality teal flank feather with long barbs. Pull about a 1 inch section of the feather barbs perpendicular to the feather stem or quill to align the barb tips. Keeping the tips aligned, pull the barbs down parallel to the feather stem to remove them from the stem. With several tight

overlapping thread wraps tie in the teal barbs to the top of the hook at the point directly above the hook barb so the tail extends back over the hook bend a distance equal to the hook shank length. DO NOT cut away the feather barb butts as they will be used to form the abdomen.



A Sweet Palazzini Peacock



# Message From Our New President

*Or, How One Trout Man Finds A New Home In The South*

*by Jason Sheasley*

My family moved to Florida 5 ½ years ago. I came kicking and screaming. Sure, I had a promising new job waiting here; but, I was reluctant to leave our home in central Pennsylvania. The reason for my unwillingness to move was quite simple – trout and trout streams. Within 15 minutes of our house I could be standing in some of the best trout streams in the East Coast, if not the country, casting dry flies to rainbow, brown and brook trout. They have names like Spruce Creek, Spring Creek, Penns Creek and the Little Juniata. The same waters fished by the luminaries; Harvey, Humphries, Brooks, Schwiebert and Krech. My weekends were spent casting dry flies on delicate tippets to wily trout.

What fly angler in their right mind would leave such a piscatorial paradise?

From the air northeast Florida certainly appeals to even the most average of anglers. Water abounds with myriad fishing opportunities. As such, my attitude toward our new home was somewhat optimistic. I had no saltwater fly fishing experience, but I set out to learn a new angle to the sport I love and to explore the surrounding waters that looked so good from above. Unfortunately, I got frustrated the first year in saltwater due to my lackluster success. I longed to return to the trout streams of my youth.

Eventually I became aware of the First Coast Fly Fishers. Regrettably, my limited association with fly fishing organizations in the past sometimes left me with a bad taste in my mouth. More often than not their ranks contained a cadre of pompous, tweed-wearing, egotists who sucked the fun out the sport by their priggish attitudes.

Fearful that FCFF would be another club of elitists I attended my first meeting with a little trepidation. Much to my surprise, I found the club dedicated to its members that fostered an environment to learn and enjoy the sport of fly fishing. I found an organization whose members are kind, friendly and willing to share their knowledge. Those members willingly took me in and invited me to be one of their own.

Because of my association with the First Coast Fly Fishers, I have improved my casting and fly tying skills; learned where and how to fish in the First Coast; and spent some memorable days on the



water. Yet most importantly, I made a number of new friends and acquaintances who share my passion for fishing and the outdoors. Now, some three years after that first meeting, I am honored to be serving as the Club's President for 2007.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 2006 Board for a great year. **Mike McQuiston, Richard Clark, George Durrance, Lew Holiday, Greg Durrance, Bob White, Jim McCully, Rich Santos, Dennis Dalquist** and **Homer Bliss** helped to make 2006 an enjoyable and successful year for the Club. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to

the Club and perpetuating its reign as one of the top fly fishing clubs on the East Coast.

It is my honor to introduce this year's slate of board members. Serving the club this year will be: **Rich Santos (Programs), Lew Holiday (Treasurer), Rob Bernado (Secretary), Woody Huband (Outings), Greg McCarthy (Membership), Bob White (Library), Jim McCully (Education), Larry Holder (Banquet), Bob Connery (At Large)** and **Dennis Dalquist (At Large)**. The Board is ready to hit the ground running. This years lists of programs is varied and covers subjects ranging from innovative fly tying to boat design and selection to the quality and state of our waters and fisheries. Adding to that, we are scheduled to visit a number of new and familiar fishing destinations around the First Coast. There have even been rumors to the effect that some of the prominent figures in our sport will be visiting the Club in the months to come.

While the Board and I may be at the helm, the success of this club is really driven by its members. We will do our best to make the Club enjoyable and rewarding. However, I encourage everyone to let the Board know what we can do to better serve you and your Club. Let us know if there is a specific destination we should consider for an outing or if there is a particular individual we should bring to the Club to speak.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the Club as President. I am looking forward to the upcoming year as I hope many of you are.



**FCFFers Ready For The December Trout Outing at Jim McCully's Place On Cumberland Island**

**Support The Guides & Shops Who Support First Coast Fly Fishers**

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