

First Coast Fly Fisher

JULY 2006

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



RSLove2Fish? -- RS Love 2 Catch, Too

See Page 4 For Details

MEETING & SPEAKER

FCFF Meeting: Monday, July 10, 7 p.m. -- Speaker: Capt. Marcia Foosaner of Port St. Lucie. We're fishing down on her turf this month. Marcia is a top guide on Florida's East Coast. She's so good they named a flat after her in the St. Lucie area. If you want to learn to catch snook, come learn from this gifted, talented fish chaser.

COMING EVENTS

July 21, 22, 23 -- Annual Port St. Lucie Weekend Outing: Port St Lucie Snook Fest. This is one of the really good trips the club sponsors every year. If you want to learn to fish for snook, this is the trip to take. Capt. Marcia Foosaner generally comes early and give us info on where we're fishing. Also, this is a chance to use the info you gathered from Marcia's talk to the club at this month's meeting. For Reservations call River Palms Cottages and Camp, (772) 334-0401 or Caribbean Shores (772) 334-4759. They fill up early so call SOON.

Renzetti

Free Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair

Mark your calendar now! The legends of the sport are coming together in Titusville for a one-day event that's free to the public.

Join Renzetti, Inc., Temple Fork Fly Rods and a host of legendary fly fishermen **December 2, 2006 in Titusville, Florida** for a day of fly-fishing and rod building. Special guests will include **Jon Cave, Bob Clouser, Nick Curcione, Sarah Gardner, Ken Hanley, Brian Horsley, Lefty Kreh, Jay Murakoshi, Bob Popovics** and many others. Over a dozen seminars and demonstrations are scheduled, covering fly tying, casting, rod building and general fly-fishing techniques for

both fresh and saltwater. Plus several discussion
nels on topics such as fishing local waters
and fly tying are planned – and **it's all
free to the public.** And none of the
seminars will overlap, so you won't need
to worry about choosing which one to
attend. Whether you're interested in
learning about fly-fishing or want to get
professional advice from the best in the world,
this event should not be missed!



Renzetti, Inc., makers of the finest fly tying tools and vises available, will host the event at their Titusville facility. They will conduct special tours of their factory throughout the day to provide people an idea of what's involved in creating an heirloom quality vise.

Temple Fork Fly Rods, perhaps the best selling fly rods in the world, will be on hand to provide demonstrations of their rods and reels, and a special area will be set up for local fly shops, artists and vendors. There will even be a kid's fly tying area and the local Boys Scout Troop will be offering food!

"Most fly-fishing shows seem to focus more on selling products than on educating the attendants, and while it's always great to see what's new and try out gear, we really wanted a way to make the sport more accessible," says Lily Renzetti, organizer of the event. "We are so fortunate to have worked with so many great fly fishermen over the years that we decided to invite them down to help make this event possible. Everyone was so enthusiastic about the concept that no one refused our invitation. It's not often that you can get this caliber of professionals in one location, and for us to be able to hold it at our facility and to make it free to the public means a lot to us."

A special evening with all of the featured speakers, limited to 75 guests, will be held on the evening of December 1. Cost for this event will be \$60 per person, with all proceeds benefiting a local fly-fishing charity and the Alzheimer Association. This evening event should fill quickly, so make your reservations as soon as possible. In addition, drawings for several fly-fishing and fly-tying prize packages will be held throughout the day with all proceeds going to charity.

This event promises to be unforgettable. Join Renzetti and Temple Fork on December 2, 2006 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Titusville, Florida. Additional information: www.renzetti.com, 407-619-0695.

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Bead Head Flies

by Dana Griffin III, North Florida Fly Fishers



Bead Head Kiwi

By some lights beads and flies go together like ham and eggs. Certainly, incorporating a bead into a fly's design is one quick way to alter the whole character of the fly. If you are a tier who ties flies to catch fish (as opposed to one who simply likes fly tying for the fun of it all), you'd be perfectly within your rights to ask does a fly plus bead attract more fish than the same fly sans bead. Unfortunately, the jury is still in the deliberation room trying to sort that one out. Where we do appear to have a firm verdict regards the matter of what beads do for flies. They give most flies a certain dapper quality, a special élan that can't help but boost the confidence of the angler. If that weren't enough, beads are just fun to tie with!

Virtually any nymph, wet fly or streamer can have a bead added to its traditional dressing (at which point you have a "bead head gold ribbed hare's ear, a bead head woolly buggler, etc.). Beads add weight to any fly, and getting your fly down to where the fish are congregating is often the secret of catching fish. Ask almost any Western guide, and he'll tell you if the client for the day isn't connecting with fish, knot a bead head nymph onto his tippet, and the action is apt to pick up.

Over a number of years I have presented to Southern game fish a selection of bead flies and have managed to concoct several patterns that at least on occasion elicit strikes. Here are the dressings with accompanying photos for three such patterns. Try these out the next time you find yourself trying to reestablish a relationship with bream or bass.

BEAD HEAD KIW (pictured above)

Hook: 9672, size 8
Thread: rust orange, 8/0
Bead: orange
Weight: .020" lead wraps
Tail: black bucktail or black bear
Body: orange dubbing
Wings: pheasant lower back feathers, 2 per side
Collar: after shaft feather from pheasant

BEAD HEAD LIGHTNING BUG

Hook: 3906B, size 8
Thread: black or brown, 8/0
Bead: black or any dark color
Weight: .020" lead wraps
Tail: yellow-dyed grizzly marabou
Body: chartreuse vermillie at rear, olive or black chenille for rest of body.

Hackle: brown or speckled hen neck



Bead Head Lightning Bug

BEAD HEAD SILVER MINNOW

Hook: 9672, size 8 or 10
Thread: white 8/0
Bead: yellow or light amber
Weight: .020" lead wraps
Tail: yellow-dyed grizzly marabou
Body: silver braided tinsel
Hackle: yellow grizzly saddle, palmered



BH Silver Minnow

The techniques effective for fishing these flies may vary from place to place. If you're casting into a river with considerable current, an across and down cast is best, followed by a pulsed retrieve after the current has swung the fly to the near bank. In lakes, ponds and other still waters, a slow retrieve seems to work well. All instruction offered on how to fish a fly may collapse after your first cast. Nothing substitutes for experience gained by the individual angler.

Stuart Snook & 'Poon

by Rich Santos



In early June my fishing partner Woody Huband and I drove down to Stuart to fish with a top guide down there -- Capt. John Meskauskas. John put us on some fine "eating" docklight snook and migrating ocean tarpon.

As far as the poons go my fishing partner Woody went 1 for 3 on spinning gear, catching one at about 100+ lbs. I fished fly and went 2 for 2, both of these heart pumping silvertails in the 40-50 pound range.

Day 1: We first went snook fishing under the dock lights. As usual they were very cooperative with eating your standard polar fiber minnow flies. I'm sure you can guess what color (white) and as you know, it's kinda' like elephants eating peanuts. You just have to cast with some accuracy. Within 30 minutes we hooked got about 6 snook in the 3-5 lb. class. Great way to start our adventure!

Then we headed out to the beach front at first light. Conditions were perfect - pretty smooth with some small southeast rollers. We could not find any signs of tarpon for a while. After looking real hard, we finally found a couple 'poons with their dorsal fin out of the water, backing like a redfish on a mud

flat! They were hardly moving! They seemed to be dangling in a holding pattern like they just rolled out of bed looking for their first cup of coffee!

A closer look revealed a large school under the water's surface. Maybe 50-100

fish! After my 4th or 5th cast into them a 40+ pound tarpon ate my EP fly! It fought kind of sluggishly with only 2 jumps and a few short runs. I landed it in short time. Woody fishing partner had a couple educated Tarpon eat and spit his

bait like it went to school and learned what was about to happen! Smart fish! Unfortunately things started getting to busy around us with boat traffic and fish disappeared. That was it for day 1. It was time to hit the motel pool!

Day 2: We headed straight for the beachfront to immediately find many schools of happy tarpon in the 40-100 lb. range. Unlike the day before these tarpon were much easier to find and were on the move. It was the perfect scenario: Calm conditions, lots of tarpon and no boats to be seen!

(Continued on Page 5)



Above: Woody Huband Scouts The Early Morning Ocean. **Left:** Capt. John Meskauskas Hoist Rich Santos' Sweet Stuart Tarpon

CCA Get-Together For Area Clubs

Skinny Water - Blue Water - Going Down - On the Fly - In the Yak or Stingray Shuffle

If any of these terms get your attention you'll love what the Jacksonville Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association has to offer you - The Northeast Florida fishing enthusiast.

Make plans to join your local CCA Chapter on Wednesday, 12 July at The Marker 32 Restaurant located at 14549 Beach Blvd at the ICW in Jacksonville. 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Members and non-members are welcome, bring a friend! Come and meet local guides, industry professionals and network with many local fishing enthusiasts. CCA Florida is a statewide, nonprofit marine conservation organization working in an advocacy role to protect the state's marine resources and the interests of saltwater anglers.

Comprised of 28 local chapters from Pensacola to Key West, we support strong, resource-based law enforcement, access to the resource for recreational fishing, and strong and fairly-balanced fishery regulations to protect state and federal fish stocks.

CCA Florida is one of 19 state chapters of the Coastal Conservation Association.

Join us to learn more about the CCA and what we can do for you. 407-854-7002, Ext. 15; C: 407-252-6969.

Snook & Poons (continued)



My partner was up first and hooked into a leading mama of 100+ pounds. He fought her for a long time with many jumps and got it boat side a couple times and

broke off. I got my second chance with my fly rod and casted in front of an on-coming school that was rolling toward us like a family of dolphins. A tarpon pretty quickly ate my EP fly and off it went with 3-4 jumps and 2 long runs. This fish had a lot more gusto than the ones from the

day before! After settling down a bit it was determined to stay with the school and did for a while. After battling it awhile I pulled it away from the school and landed my second silver king of the trip. I can't ask for more than that. The fish activity slowed down around 9:30 and we called it the day.

I must share with you that I have fished with Capt. John Meskauskas for 5 years now. He is a fantastic guide that has always stepped above and beyond and put me on fish. He's a real professional and great company. I would highly recommend him to anybody. If you're going on the St. Lucie trip, you might want to take a second day to fish with him for tarpon. His phone number is 772-529-4484, or contact him at infor@stuartflyfishing.com I'm already planning the next trip. Can't wait! Just get out there and do it!

Support The Guides & Shops Who Support First Coast Fly Fishers

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Lott/Adams
Outing: Top,
Rick Pala-
zzini's Eye
For the St.
Johns.
Sides: Chris
Photo'd
Manatees
Just North
of The
Lotts. His
Daughter
Pets One,
Right.



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