



Volume Issue 2-10

February 2010

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 26 at Twin Lakes Park at 7:00 PM.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The New Year is upon us, and that means most of us have new fishing stuff we're excited to try out. It also means the same thing for our club. After the amazing response to our recent survey, we've got some **new ideas** we're excited about for 2010. We've also got some **new people** in leadership positions on the board (myself included) to help make them happen. So if you haven't already, be sure to renew your MCFF membership and we'll keep working to provide **more value** for your contribution in 2010.

Speaking of membership, there has been some debate about continuing our status as a Charter Club of the **Federation of Fly Fishers**. We considered going independent, but learned that it would require a significant investment of **time and money** (6 month wait just to process the IRS application). So, it looks like we'll be an FFF charter club for 2010, which means that you must be a member of **both** organizations. If this is a deal-breaker for anyone, please track me down and tell me. Seriously - **I want to know**.

Our **speaker** this month will be **Capt. Pat Damico** from St. Pete Beach, who will cover tips and techniques for fishing lighted docks at night. Not only is this type of fishing ideal for fly anglers, but Sarasota Bay offers some prime **dock fishing** opportunities, so don't miss out!

And if you need help making those **tricky casts** under the dock (or anywhere else), be sure to take advantage of a special **FREE** offer from **Capt. John Hand**, a master certified casting instructor. He will be teaching a different type of cast **every month** before our meetings, in addition to the regular casting instruction. Please see our website for more details.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to participate in the 4th annual **Sarasota Seagrass Survey**. It's a fun way to make a **meaningful contribution** to our fisheries, and meet some interesting like-minded folks in the process. And it's free. Training will be Jan. 30th from 11:30am to 1:30pm, at the Bay Area Preserve in Osprey. More details on our website.

-Evan

[Web site: mangrovecoastflyfishers.com](http://mangrovecoastflyfishers.com)

Monthly Club Meeting: Tuesday, January 26th - Captain Pat Damico will present a program on Night Snook Fishing, titled: "Lighted Docks for Snook and other species that like flies."

Capt. Pat Damico, a FFF Master Certified Fly Casting Instructor, is from St. Pete Beach and fishes Tampa Bay as well as other areas to the north and south. A retired PA dentist, he has fly fished the northeast for many species and also the Bahamas, Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico and Canada.

A Florida resident for the last 13 years, as well as a guide for most of that time, local saltwater fly fishing and fly tying has occupied most of his interest. The Deep South Coordinator for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing has extended his fly fishing experience into a very gratifying level attained by very few sports.

Lighted docks are a favorite and produce snook, redfish, trout and other species. Techniques, tackle, flies and presentation will be covered so that your chances for success will be increased.

His fly fishing articles have appeared in several publications as well as both the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Suncoast Fly Fishers Club newsletters. Further information is available at <http://www.captpat.com> or by contacting Pat by email at: pat4jaws@hotmail.com. Don't miss this presentation!



Win a kayak fishing trip for two with Steve Gibson

Trip info:

Guided six-hour kayak fishing trip for two in salt or fresh water. Fishing waters include southern Tampa Bay, Bishop Harbor, Sarasota Bay and Little Sarasota Bay. In fresh water, possible sites include Lake Manatee, Braden River or Myakka River. Trip may be upgraded to all-day Everglades outing. All tackle, lures and flies provided or anglers may use their own. Water and light snacks provided. Anglers will be required to have valid Florida saltwater or freshwater fishing licenses. Trip is good until Dec. 31, 2010. Anglers should contact Steve Gibson at (941) 284-3406.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each and six for \$20. Don't miss this chance for a fun trip. The drawing will be at the January meeting.

Steve Gibson bio:

Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing was established by **Steve Gibson**, one of the most experienced anglers in southwest Florida.

Gibson has been fishing for 45 years and nearly 35 of those years in Florida.

He received his B.A. in Journalism from Marshall University in Huntington, WV in 1971. Following his graduation, Gibson enlisted in the Air Force and served four years. He was an information specialist for the Consolidated Tactical Air Command Office of Information at Eglin Air Force Base near Valparaiso, FL. He spent his last two years as the historian of the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin.

A professional outdoor writer and photographer, Gibson's writing and photographs have appeared in several publications, including Florida Sportsman, Gulf Coast Angler, Fly Fishing in Salt Waters, Saltwater Fly Fishing, The Fisherman, Cabella's Outdoor Magazine, Paddle World Magazine, Kayak Angler Magazine and Florida Fishing Weekly.

He also served as host of Fishing Paradise on Sarasota's SNN6 and was host of Suncoast Outdoors on a local radio station. In addition, Gibson hosted a two-day seminar series at Robarts Arena in Sarasota, called "Go Fish! Fishing Extravaganza."

He is co-tournament director of the Sarasota Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association's Fall Fly Fishing Challenge.

An avid angler, Gibson has won many tournaments including the Fly Fishing Division of the Sarasota Sports Fishing Anglers All-Release Tarpon Tournament, the Fly Fishing Division of the Sarasota Sports Fishing Anglers Spring Classic, Sarasota CCA All-Release Photo Challenge (snook division and spotted seatrout division), Sarasota CCA Fall Fly Fishing Classic (trout division), Fly Fishing Division of the Venice/Englewood CCA No Motor Tournament and he took first place in the Orvis Dealers Fly Fishing School Tournament in Islamorada with a 14-pound bonefish.

He is the creator of the famous Myakka Minnow, a deadly fly in fresh and salt water.

Gibson resides in Sarasota with his wife, Kathy, their daughter, Morgan, and their Jack Russell Terrier, Jack.

(941) 284-3406



Capt. Rick Grasset's Fly Fishing Forecast for February 2010

This is one of the toughest months of the year to fish due to frequent fronts and cold water. However, if you fish smart you can be successful. Snook will be found in rivers, creeks, canals and around docks in the ICW during February. Reds and trout might also be found in potholes or in creeks and canals, particularly where there is dark bottom that will absorb heat. Docks are another winter time area to find a variety of fish, including reds, trout, flounder and more. You should also find trout, bluefish, ladyfish and possibly pompano on deep grass flats depending on conditions.

Snook season remains closed during February, so handle them gently and release them quickly. It is important to use tackle that is heavy enough to land them quickly, so they won't be overly stressed. You might find snook in creeks and canals this month where they will congregate to find warmer water. The outside bends of creeks and canals will have deeper and possibly warmer water. Fishing docks in creeks and canals and in the ICW is another area to find snook this month. Intermediate sink tip fly lines work well for fishing deep flats, creeks and docks. Afternoon and early evening may be the best time of day to fish due to warmer water. There are several small creeks in Sarasota Bay and Little Sarasota Bay that may hold snook in the winter; Bowlees Creek, Whitaker Bayou, Hudson Bayou, Phillippi Creek, North Creek and South Creek. I like to use wide profile flies, such as Deceivers and Enrico Puglisi flies in these areas.

Night snook fishing can be very good in February depending on conditions. When water temperatures dip below 60 degrees, I wouldn't recommend targeting them. However, I have seen snook gorging themselves on glass minnows around ICW docks at night with the water temperature in the low 60's. They'll eat small white flies, like my Grasset's Snook Minnow. The ICW from Sarasota to Venice is one of my favorite night snook areas.

Reds may be found around docks and in creeks and canals. They may venture onto warm, sunny flats in the afternoon to feed. When the tide is low, you should find them in potholes and along drop offs of sand bars. You may find them tailing on shallow grass flats in Gasparilla Sound and lower Tampa Bay when the tide is low. However you'll need a weedless fly, when targeting tailing reds due to the thick grass they'll be found in. I like to target sand bar edges and potholes since these areas, with light colored, sandy bottom, may provide some sight fishing opportunities. Fly anglers should score with Clousers and shrimp or crab fly patterns, like my Grasset's Flats Minnow. Work flies slowly along the bottom for the best action.

Trout will be found on deep grass flats along with **jacks, ladyfish, bluefish, pompano and flounder**. I like to drift and cast ahead of my drift with flies to locate fish. Once you locate fish you can shorten your drift and zero in on them. You might also find trout in deep areas, such as creeks, canals or turning basins, especially when it is cold. Work flies slowly near the bottom for the best action. Sarasota Bay has some of the most productive deep grass flats that you'll find anywhere. I look for good tidal flow, a good mix of grass and sand and other activity such as birds and baitfish.

You might find some activity in the coastal gulf this month, but it will depend on conditions. Look for "breaking" fish, little tunny, blues, jacks or ladyfish and cast flies to them. In the absence of surface activity, look for tripletail around crab trap floats and buoys. You'll find them on the surface best when we are in a southeast wind pattern. Make your first presentation count. They are much tougher to catch once they know you are there.

Although fishing can be challenging this month, you'll increase your chances for success if you fish smart. Fish may be more active on sunny afternoons following fronts. You'll be more successful if you target species that are more tolerant of cold weather, such as sheepshead, flounder, blues and redfish. Try to find warmer water to locate baitfish and predators. If you think you are fishing too slowly, slow it down even more. Cold water slows the metabolism of fish, so they don't require as much food nor do they exert a lot of energy to feed. Whatever you choose to do, **remember to always limit your kill; don't kill your limit!**

Tight Lines,
Capt. Rick Grasset
Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.
FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor
(941) 923-7799
E-mail snookfin@aol.com

www.flyfishingflorida.net and www.snookfin-addict.com

Look for big trout in potholes this month. This 4-pounder ate a Grasset's Flats Minnow fly in a fly in a Sarasota Bay pothole.



.February can be a good month for night snook fishing unless it gets too cold. As long as water temperatures are above 60 degrees, snook will feed actively around lighted docks and bridge fenders and should survive well. Sarasota winter resident, Phil Rever, caught and released this one on a Grasset's Snook Minnow fly on a night trip with Capt. Rick Grasset.

By STEVE GIBSON

Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing

www.kayakfishing Sarasota.com

(941) 284-3406

The kayak boom still hasn't peaked. Just ask the folks at Economy Tackle/Dolphin Dive in Sarasota. Economy reportedly is the largest kayak dealer in the Southeast.

I remember when I bought my first kayak. As I was looking at what they had in stock, they sold four kayaks. Every time I visit the store, kayaks are carried out and put onto car tops or loaded in the back of a truck.

Stands to reason when you think about it. Kayaks are very economical, require little maintenance and you certainly don't have stop at the gas station. In addition, they're great platforms from which to fish.

I am sponsored by Native Watercraft and I paddle the Ultimate 14.5. It's a tunnel-hulled kayak that's very stable. It's so stable that I can stand up and pole. I can also stand up and cast a fly rod and fight a fish.

Although I think it's the best fishing kayak on the market, it may not be for everyone. Those contemplating a kayak purchase owe it to themselves to paddle a number of models to determine which one is best for them.

Here are the key factors you need to keep in mind:

Weight: You'll want to purchase a kayak that you can load and unload. You don't want to have to solicit help.

Tracking: Nothing is worse than having to make a paddle correction every other stroke. You'll want a kayak that runs straight, with minimal correction.

Speed: These human-powered vessels do vary in speed. Remember, the longer the kayak, the faster it is. I can paddle my 14.5-footer at about 3.5 mph. I can sustain that speed very comfortably. I've had it up faster than 6 mph, but can't sustain it very long.

Maneuverability: The shorter the kayak the more maneuverable it is. I would take speed over maneuverability in most cases.

Roominess: You'll want a boat that will carry all your gear. On a typical outing, I'll take three fly rods, a gear bag, Boga Grip, knife, pliers, a PFD and several fly boxes. When I have a spinning charter, I can carry up to eight rods and reels. In addition, I can carry a loaded 36-quarter cooler in the bow.

Style: Don't let anyone talk you into a "sit-in" kayak (also known as a SIK) You can't carry much gear in a SIK. Opt for a "sit-on-top" or a new hybrid. My Ultimate is a hybrid.

Seat: Spend a little extra here if you have to. Nothing's worse than a cheap seat. Your posterior and back will thank you. Native Watercraft come with the best seat in the industry. The seat is so good, you will not have to use a cushion.

Another item to consider is your paddle. It should be your second most expensive investment. A light, carbon-fiber paddle is not only light, but also strong. Most good paddles are adjustable and their blades can be feathered to offset the wind. Paddles with aluminum shafts and molded plastic blades are extremely heavy when compared to a carbon-fiber paddle.

Realize you won't be able to cast as far while sitting down in a kayak. That's OK. You can get a whole lot closer to fish in a kayak than you can in a flats skiff or even wading. If you can cast 35 feet, you're in good shape.

A 16-foot kayak might be tempting, but what are you going to do when a big redfish or snook swims under your bow? In my 14.5-footer, I simply reach out and pass the line in front of the bow. You can't do that in a longer kayak.

As far as safety equipment goes, you're required to have a personal flotation device (PFD), a horn or other noisemaking device (a whistle is sufficient) and an anchor. Rather than a stock kayak anchor, I opt for 5-pound, foam-covered hand dumbbells from Walmart.

I also strongly suggest an anchor trolley system and then can move the trolley to any point along the direction you want.

When getting in or out of a kayak, you don't want to be in water any deeper than your knees.

Economy Tackle holds two demo days a month at Ackerman Park. The park is located east of Interstate 75 just south of Fruitville Road. Give Economy a call (941-922-9671) to find out the date of the next demo day. They usually have dozens of kayaks for you to paddle.

Why fish from a kayak? It's fun. It's also a very healthy activity.

When you own a kayak, you can fish when you want, where you want, for whatever species you want and for as long as you want.

KAYAK FISHING REPORT: Fellow club member Pete Greenan and I drove down to The Everglades in December and totaled (conservatively) 350 fish, including oscar, Mayan cichlid, largemouth bass, bluegill, stumpknocker, speckled perch and peacock bass. Most fish were taken on the Mighty Myakka Minnow.

Oscar and Mayan cichlids didn't do too well during a record cold. Peacock bass guide Alan Zarembo, a former MCFE speaker, reported that many of the exotic species were killed during the cold. He is still operating.

Prior to the cold, my clients were doing extremely well over the deep grass in Sarasota Bay. On two trips, we caught and released 60 pompano to nearly 5 pounds. We also caught spotted seatrout to 4 pounds, Spanish mackerel to 5, bluefish to 6, ladyfish, jack crevalle, gag grouper and mutton snapper. My Big Eye Baitfish Fly was the top fly.

I got out on Jan. 15 and fished Little Sarasota Bay near Blackburn Point. I saw quite a few dead ladyfish, mullet and stingrays. I caught several nice spotted seatrout and a sheepshead on Clouser Minnows. Bait is scarce and sheepshead will jump on a fly.

I predict excellent fishing for spotted seatrout and redfish when we get a week or more of warm weather.



tem on your kayak. You clip your anchor line to it bow or stern. That allows you to fish in any direction you want.

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Fly Of The Month

The Merkin

Preston Jones asked for instructions on this fly, so I figured it would be a good one for this month's pattern. The Merkin was originally designed for permit fishing. The requirements were for a crab pattern which sunk to the bottom quickly.

if this isn't needed. It is quite simple to tie, but does take some time.

Materials: If you need a good grin, look the word Merkin up in the dictionary.

This version of the fly is a great pattern for sight fishing for redfish. The colors can vary dependent on the bottom color. The actual size of the finished crab body is between a nickel and quarter. It will sink rapidly, so the size of the lead eyes can be reduced in size



HOOK: Mustad 34007 #2 or #1

EYES: 5/32 (small) lead eyes

BODY: Two colors of Aunt Lydia's Rug Yarn—tan/brown, Lt. olive/Dk. Olive, rubber or silicone legs

TAIL: Small tuft of marabou, 2 Hen or Rooster neck feathers (pins), like colored krystal flash.

THREAD: Chartreuse Flymaster+

MISC: Brushable Crazy Glue, Very fine comb (flea, mustache), curved scissors

Start with the hook point down in the vice. Cover the hook in thread from the eye to 1/3 up the bend of the hook. Attach the lead eye as close to the hook eye as you can, keeping it on top of the shank. Thread back to the bend of the hook and attach a small amount of marabou down the bend. On either side of the marabou, attach the neck feathers, splayed out. Outside the feathers, attach 3-4 strands of Krystal Flash.

Turn the hook over in the vice, point up. Attach the first strand of the rug yarn at the bend of the hook. Cross the yarn in an "X" pattern over the hook. Make sure that the yarn is right on top of the hook shank (not angled toward or away from you). Now put two to three wraps of thread right in front of the yarn. Now's the time to glue with the crazy glue. With an overhand knot, tie the rubber leg in just in front of the thread. Pulling the legs down and rearward, place two to three wraps of thread over the rubber legs. Glue with crazy glue. Repeat the process about 5-6 more times.

If you are careful, and you wrap the thread tightly, you only need a single "X" wrap over each set of yarn. When building forward on the hook, don't try and crowd things together. You really need to leave room.

Now you have completed the fly. You have glued all along the way. You have whip finished the thread. Grab all of the legs and pull them down out of the way. Comb out the yarn, unfurling the twist in the yarn and blending the colors a bit. Release the fly from the vice maintaining your grip on the legs. Cut a rough coin shape, and then slowly work it into a tighter coin shape. Remember it's easier to trim a bit at a time rather than hack too much off. Cut the legs about 1/4" longer than the body. Finished!

Try casting this fly in front of tailing redfish. It also works well on cruisers. Remember, it does plop into the water. Lead them. Don't strip the fly too fast; wiggling it in place is much more effective. A crab doesn't move like a baitfish—it will try to hunker down in the cover.

Craig Smothers

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. "Don" Coleman, *Chief Curmudgeon*

CASTING PRACTICE _Ed Story told us flat out. "Don't wait to go fishing to improve your casting. All you need is a rod, always set up, and a patch of grass. Where would Arnold Palmer be if he waited for tournaments to swing a golf club?" The trick is not to practice the same mistakes over and over. _Ed Jaworowski wrote, "Most casters use more energy to make a 50 foot cast than they need to make an 80 foot cast. It takes little effort to cast if you are doing it right. Don't think in terms of power. Think of casting easier instead of harder."

If you want to cast using modern fly casting methods, beg, borrow, or steal Ed Jaworowski's article on "Speed, Part 1: The Rod Hand" that appeared in the April/May 2002 issue of *Saltwater Fly Fishing* magazine. Study every word and practice this drill regularly. You will soon master the very short and fast speed-up-and-stop necessary for long casts with tight loops, without using your line hand, your wrist, or the muscles of your upper arm and shoulder to throw the line. Practice this drill regularly, and if you practice with each hand you will soon be able to cast with either hand and your backcasts will have tight loops and be as long as your forward casts.

On the other hand, if you prefer not to develop fast hands and high line speed, and cast with slower, more relaxed motions, over-line your rod by a minimum of 2 or possibly 3 line weights to slow down the rod and let the extra weight of the heavier line bend the rod. Do not let anyone tell you that you will stress the rod by doing so, or that you must use the line weight designated on the rod. You will not put any more load on the rod than you would by using a sinking line. Make your own decisions. There are no fly casting police.

MAXIMS: "If the fish won't touch your standard flies, feed them strawberry shortcake." _Wulff "Eat the desert first because you might not have room for it afterwards." _My wife "Fishermen are born honest, but they get over it." _Ed Zern
Concentrate more on the fun of fly fishing instead of the mechanics.

LINE WEIGHTS _Spinning rods are rated to handle a range of weights, while fly rods have only one weight line indicated on the blank. Why? If you are using a light fly rod the line recommended is usually that which will properly load the rod with 30 feet of line outside the rod tip. Now many saltwater rods are being designed to properly load the rod with 40 or more feet of line outside the rod tip. Every extra 5 feet of line carried in the air is roughly the equivalent of one heavier line weight. And every 5 feet less is roughly equivalent to one lighter line weight.

If you are consistently casting less distance than your rod was designed for, you should probably overline your rod at least one line weight to allow the rod to load properly. Conversely, if you are consistently making long casts you might consider underlining your rod because you will usually carry more line in the air. To make it more confusing, if you are casting heavy, bulky flies a heavier line will carry more momentum and make your casting easier. Furthermore, it all depends on your casting ability. If you have fast hands with a very short and fast speed up and stop, you may be best served by underlining your rod. A beginning fly caster, or one who prefers not to develop high line speed, will usually feel more comfortable with an overlined rod. Stop thinking within the lines laid down by others—even the manufacturer. Try different line weights to see which works best for you and your rod.

"EDUCATION closes as many doors as it opens, for to believe implies disbelief. One accepts one belief but closes the mind to all that is, or seems to be contradictory." _Louis L'Amour

LEADERS _When fishing streamer flies the primary purpose of a leader is to lead the fly. Invisibility is not normally a concern because fish tend to ignore all leaders and hooks when they are looking at "food." Too light or too long a leader will not turn over the fly, or will not allow the fly to be led by the leader. Too heavy a leader will overpower the fly and hinder sinking. Leaders that are too heavy or too light are a handicap to presentation—the fly will not act or swim right.



“Memories of Warmer Weather” photos courtesy of Ron Whiteley

TALLAHASSEE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Certain fish now off-limits

The state has temporarily banned the catching of certain saltwater fish because the recent cold snap killed too many of them. The state canceled the upcoming snook season and banned the catching of bonefish and tarpon until April. The cold snap killed thousands of fish.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Rodney Barreto called the ban "a proactive, precautionary approach." He said it is warranted to preserve the state's population of snook, bonefish and tarpon, which are among Florida's most popular game fish species.

Outing Report

JANUARY 16, 2010

As expected the day dawned with an overcast sky and a menacing breeze from the ENE at approximately eight mph, expected to go to 15-18 with gusts to 23. This coupled with a water temperature of 51 degrees and a long, slow incoming tide all day did not bode well for success flats fishing. Add to this the recent fish kill from cold the chances of catching a fish were low.

However, 14 stalwart **MCFF** members and two guests made their way across the Skyway Bridge to the North Rest Area flat. As John Freedman put it "the worst day of fishing beats the best day of sitting around the house: it's just time to get out and cast a line." Most of those in attendance agreed with John so after a brief orientation and discussion the kayakers and waders took to the water. Fly fisherman are extremely optimistic soles, but after several hours of covering the flat it was obvious that this day was going to require more than optimism. Wind velocity and cloud cover had increased dramatically. Many of us headed for shore.

At about 11:30 AM an official meeting of the Liar's Club was called to order by Outings Coordinator Joe Bursel. Needless to say there wasn't much to lie about but true to our sport we found some content anyway. Joe Bursel did manage to catch a small trout while Jeff Jefferson saw one "tailer Redfish" but could not get to it. I kicked out a couple of Reds but they were moving so fast I didn't even have time to lock and load.

With that the group adjourned to Popi's restaurant in Palmetto where we enjoyed some fine fair and additional fascinating conversation. Incidentally the high wind warning lights were on when we came back across the bridge indicating wind gusts in excess of 40 mph.

The February outing is scheduled for the 13th and is a flats fishing venture to the Whitfield Ave. Flats on the east side of Big Sarasota Bay. This location is excellent for waders, kayakers, and boaters alike. Be sure to mark your calendar. Details and directions will be forthcoming at the January meeting and via e-mail after the meeting. There will be a signup sheet available at the meeting or you can contact Joe Bursel or myself.

Joe Bursel: josephbursel@comcast.net 941-924-4382

Preston Jones: jonesp018@yahoo.com 941-729-3306

We look forward to seeing you at Whitfield in February.

Best Regards,
Preston

2010 PLANNED OUTINGS

Date:	Type:	Location:
2/13/2010	Flats Fishing	Whitfield Ave. Flats
3/13/2010	Family Outing	Stock Enhancement Research Facility FWC Conservation Commission
4/17/2010	Fresh Water Fishing	Alligator Alley Marker 37
5/15/2010	Family Outing	Turtle Beach (Snook Fishing)
6/12/2010	(Beach Fishing)	(Anna Maria Bayfront Park)
7/11 - 7/17/2010	Tarpon Fishing	Tarpon Roundup
8/14/2010	Family Outing	Casting Clinic
9/18/2010	Flats Fishing	Emerson Point Preserve
10/16/2010	tbd	tbd
11/13/2010	Fresh Water Fishing	Tenoroc Fish Management Area
12/18/2010	Flats Fishing	Ft. DeSoto Park (Don Coleman Classic)

OUTING REPORT: The Don Coleman Classic

It has often been said that “when the going gets tough the tough get going.” Twenty-four tough MCFfers and guests combined with approximately 40 from the Suncoast and Tampa Clubs to make the 2009 Don Coleman a resounding success.

This year’s event, held on December 19 was at FT. DeSoto Park in St. Pete. As readers may recall a vicious cold front came through on the afternoon of the 18th and produced winds upwards of 40 mph putting the event in serious jeopardy. However, as preparations had been extensive (particularly for the lunch) it was decided to go forth with whoever made the scene. At one point during the night I awakened and the winds were so strong that I ‘just knew’ the Skyway would be closed to traffic. Sleep the remainder of the night was fitful at best.

But through the kindness of “Mother Nature” that didn’t happen and ten hardy MCFF members along with an equal number of intrepid Suncoast and TBFFC members met at the Ft. DeSoto boat ramp at 7:30 AM and subsequently set off for the flats. For the most part boats were left at home and kayaks on vehicle roofs. It was windy and cold. But with waders pulled up we set off for east beach. This turned out to be a superb choice. Wading conditions were excellent with sufficient shelter from the fury making casting a breeze (“pun intended”).

As one might guess with the previous night’s passage of the front the catching was slow but at least there was some catching. Top honors went to new member John Freedman (several Trout and a Ladyfish) who was fishing with his mentor for the day Jim Urbancic. As Paul Harvery would say, “and now for the rest of the story”, Jim (the mentor) captured the stripped kitty cat (aka a skunk) so for the next outing (January 23, 2010) they are switching roles. Congratulations to John on his promotion: learn well Jim. I overheard Joe Bursel bragging about a world record class Pinfish and a monstrous Blue Runner. I was not able to verify the accuracy of his report as the size fluctuated dynamically during conversation so each of you should check with Joe in person at your next opportunity.

Now, the highlight of the day: **LUNCH**. By tradition lunch at the Coleman consists of homemade chili and all the ‘fixins’. Each Club provided a pot of homemade ‘firebrand’ for all to share. Our sincere thanks go to Cynthia Dunayer and her resident chili maker and hubby Fred. [It...was...fabulous!!!!!!](#) (buuuuuuurp) Also thanks go out to other members of our Club who brought side dishes to share. The salads, cornbread, and desserts were scrumptious. It was a wonderful feed and great to be in the company of the other Clubs. It is refreshing to note that, as with us, their fish grow as stories unfold. The only downside that I found to the whole shindig is the dramatic rise in my ‘Roloids’ budget: little price to pay.

The Coleman is held before Christmas at Ft. De-ber 18th for 2010. I’m mark-you consider doing the

Again Joe and I thank made this event a smashing

Best Regards,
Preston



each December on the Saturday Soto. That would make it Decem-ber 18th for 2010. I’m mark-ing my calendar now and suggest same.

all of you who participated and success.

Short Casts

10th Annual CCA Manatee County Banquet and Auction Feb.26, 2010

It's held at the Bradenton Auditorium. Tickets are \$75 for singles & couples are \$150. Contact Roger Williams at the club meeting for tickets and more information.

MCCFF Merchandise



Hats, long and short sleeve tee shirts with the embroidered logo are available for purchase at the meetings. Hats and short sleeve tees are only \$15 and long sleeve tees are \$20.

RYAN MILLER WILL BE TYING AT FLINT CREEK OUTFITTERS IN RIVERVIEW.

Fly tying every Tuesday for the months of Jan. and Feb. 5-8. Learn how to use new materials and learn some new tricks to different flies. Bring your own materials and tools and get special discount on Tuesday nights only. If you have any question call 813 681 1888.13425 Fishhawk Blvd., River-view, FL 33569

For Sale 15 hp Evinrude, Electric Start Outboard Motor: 1991 has less than 10 operating hours. Am original owner. Includes battery case, gas tank and mounting lock. Used on Zodiac inflatable as dinghy. Excellent condition. Orig. cost \$1750. Asking **\$499 OBO**
Call Fred Mazanec at 941-925-1395

For you returning snowbird fisher folks, a reminder, shoreline fishing requires a license; 1 year-\$9.00, shoreline and a watercraft-\$17. Also, check new grouper fishing regulations. For all the new rules and regulations check the MCCFF group page on : groups.Yahoo.com/group/MCCFF

FFF Announcements

Seagrass protection pays off for fish and fisherman

Seagrasses are an important part of healthy coastal ecosystems. They provide habitat for juvenile and adult fish, and also important food for turtles, manatees and crabs. In some areas in the Gulf of Mexico, seagrass have been destroyed by irresponsible boat traffic, pollution and other activities. The work of the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers with partners has improved seagrass in some areas. Their monitoring work was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency. Keep up the great work!

From the FFF Newsletter

BOAT SHARING

Listed below are members that are willing to share their boats with other members for fishing trips. If you are a member that wishes to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact one of those listed. Don't be shy, they're listed because they'd enjoy your company. Give'em a call.

Also, we feel that if you do share a boat, it would be appropriate to share expenses

If you would like to put your name on the list, send your info to 2bobprkr@gmail.com for inclusion. If you want to go fishing, call a member on the list.

Ron Whiteley

941-697-548-1453 17' Maverick HPX tunnel. Times and places you like to fish. Yes, Fly.

Roger Williams

941-748-5477. 16 foot Scout boat. Manatee River and Terra Ceia Bay. Weekdays only. Spin or Fly.

Preston Jones

941-729-3306: jonesp018@yahoo.com: Lower Tampa Bay, Terra Ceia Bay, Northern Sarasota Bay including Anna Maria Sound or anywhere else. Fly only.

Rick Schwartz

941-966-6434. 18' Sea Pro Bay. Prefer to fish weekdays from S. Sarasota to Charlotte Harbor. Fly and spin.

Member benefits

Monthly meetings with expert speakers.
Club outings and trips
Boat sharing
Casting instruction
Fly tying instruction
Fishing reports
Monthly news letter
Raffles for merchandise and guided trips
Tournaments
Fishy places
Make new friends with other fly fishers
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http://gibbysfishingblo.blogspot.com

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PH: 941-923-7799

EMAIL: snookfin@aol.com
www.snookfin-addict.com
www.flyfishingflorida.net

Capt. Pete Greenan
PH: 941-232-2960

EMAIL: captpete@floridaflyfishing.com
www.floridaflyfishing.com

Capt. Bobby Hillbrunner
PH: 941-320-9791

EMAIL: fishnflyer@earthlink.net

Capt. Tony Petrella
PH: 941-496-4289

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www.tightloopsflyfishing.com

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January, 2010
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MCFF Club Website: <http://www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com>

MCFF Email List & Chat: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCFF/>

MCFF Mission: To promote saltwater fly fishing and conserve, protect and restore Florida's coastal fisheries and habitats.

Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m. at Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota, FL.

The Board of Directors meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name/s _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephones (_____) _____

E-Mail (club use only) _____

Mail Check payable to:
Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers ,
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Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Renewal \$30
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New members, only: Individual: \$65
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**MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS
P. O. BOX 3792 SARASOTA, FL. 34230-3792**

Directions to meeting

- **East of I-75 on Clark Rd**
- **Go about 1/2 mile**
- **Turn into Twin Lakes Park**
- **Take first right into the parking lot**
- **Meeting is in far right building**

THE DON COLEMAN CLASSIC OUTING



**Participants included members of the:
Suncoast fly Fishers
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
The Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers**