



Come to the next meeting  
Tuesday, June 28 at Twin Lakes Park at 7:00 PM.  
Come early for casting and tying instruction.

This month there will be a

## **MYSTERY MEETING**

*Come and discover what  
surprises are in store!*

*Techniques, flies, destinations,  
fresh water tips, knots?*

*Who knows?*

*Come and take it all in.*

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**Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20**  
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**Winning ticket will be drawn at the June meeting. You need not be present to win.**

Brief bio: Have been guiding in Sarasota since 1997, specializing in light tackle fishing adventures and flyfishing. Known for flyfishing at night for snook and creating many of my own successful fly patterns.

Also registered as a veteran Maine Guide.

You'll win a 6 hour fishing trip for 2 people, day or night, on a mutually agreed-upon day. Excludes holiday weeks, and March and April.



**Ken Babineau was last month's winner of trip with Capt. Pete Greenan.  
A great trip for the cost of a \$5.00 lottery ticket. Have a fun day Ken.**

## Capt. Rick Grasset's Sarasota Fly Fishing Forecast for July 2011

Tarpon will still be a good option during July. Flats fishing for trout and reds should be good early in the day before afternoon heat or thunderstorms become a problem. Catch and release night snook fishing in the ICW should also be a good option and is a good way to beat the heat. You'll also find snook in the surf where you can sight fish for them.

**Tarpon** will be mostly spawned out by July and will change their focus from migrating and spawning to feeding. Instead of the large schools of 40 or 50 fish that we see during June, you will find more singles, doubles and small schools particularly late in the month. Be ready for a quick cast to fish that may not be showing well on the surface but often feed more aggressively than early season fish. Fly anglers should have excellent sight fishing opportunities in shallow water. I prefer to anchor or stake out on an edge, moving with my push pole if necessary to get a shot at a fish. When tarpon are finicky, small flies on lighter bite tippets may get a bite.

Catch and release **snook** fishing should also be hot in July. You can walk along the beach in many areas and sight fish snook cruising in the trough, very close to the sand. An intermediate sink tip fly line and small white flies, like my Grasset Snook Minnow or DT Specials, should work well. It is best when there isn't much wave action in the surf, although a sink tip fly line will get your fly below the wave action. The best visibility will be from mid morning until early afternoon. If you walk along the beach about 10 feet from the edge of the surf, you will have a good angle to spot fish cruising in the trough. Fly anglers should watch their back casts due to other people that may be present on the beach, particularly later in the day. There are many good areas to fish snook in the surf from Longboat Key to Manasota Key.

Night snook fishing around lighted docks and bridges close to passes should also be a good option during July. I prefer to fish early in the morning before dawn this time of the year, which is the coolest time of the day. Also, you should have less thunderstorm activity to avoid early in the morning as opposed to the evening. Fish peak tidal flows with the same tackle and flies that you use in the surf. I often begin my days in late summer by snook fishing before dawn, moving to shallow flats at dawn and heading in before heat becomes an issue by late morning. You might also find snook in inlets and bridge channels during July. A fast sinking fly line fished around bridge fenders and channels may get your fly into the strike zone for larger fish. Use tackle that is heavy enough to land them quickly and handle them as little as possible.

**Reds** will be plentiful in skinny water this month, although they'll be easier to find when the tide is low. They'll be most active early in the day when the water is coolest. I like to blind cast along seams where grass and sand meet and the edges of bars and potholes to find reds. Fly anglers will do best with a floating fly line, a 10'-12' leader and a lightly weighted fly like my Grasset Flats Minnow. Spoons and spoon flies are also good options since they not only have lots of flash, but they also have vibration. When the tide is high or it is overcast, fly poppers and Gurglers may make reds show themselves. There may be some significant schooling activity by the end of the month. North Sarasota Bay is one of my favorite summertime redfish areas.

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**Trout** fishing should also be good on deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay during July, but like reds the best action will be early in the day. You may find big trout in skinny water at first light and they will drop into deeper water very soon after it starts to get bright out and warm up. Fly poppers and Gurglers may draw exciting strikes in skinny water at first light in the morning. After trout drop into deeper water, I like to drift and cast ahead of the drift with weighted flies, such as Clousers or my Grasset Deep Flats Bunny, fished on sink tip fly lines. Some of my favorite trout flats, Middle-ground and Radio Tower flats, Stephens Point and near Buttonwood Harbor are close to passes, points and sand bars.

You might also find **blues, jacks and ladyfish** on deep grass flats this month. The techniques to catch them will be the same as for trout, although you will need to use a heavy fluorocarbon or wire tippet when blues are present. You might also find **tripletail, cobia or little tunny** in the coastal gulf this month. Be sure to have an 8 or 9-weight fly rod on board while tarpon fishing this month. I have often encountered tripletail or cobia on crab trap floats or buoys in July. Cobia will also travel with tarpon schools and will probably eat whatever fly you are using for tarpon. Schools of little tunny will sometimes blitz the beach and provide a flurry of activity. I have encountered several schools this season and hooked up on flies.

Tarpon will still be a good option during July. Catch and release snook in the surf or in the ICW at night and big reds and trout in skinny water at dawn will also be good options. I focus on fly fishing for tarpon in July. Large spawning schools will give way to singles, doubles and small schools that are hungry! Whatever you choose to do, **please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!**

Tight Lines,

Capt. Rick Grasset

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Cliff Ondercin, from Sarasota, displays good form as he "bows to the king" which results in a landed fish while fishing the coastal gulf off Sarasota with Capt. Rick Grasset.



## Short Casts

### Big Snook on Foam Crab – June 2011

Last week, I finally got the chance to fish one of my very favorite scenarios – big Snook slurping Pass Crabs off the surface just like greedy trout in a stream. It's one of those rare events that only happen when everything is just right: the tides, the place, the conditions, the wind; it's a very specific formula. Fortunately, my buddy Jared happens to live right on the Pass and can keep close tabs on the situation, and even better...he will call me and tell me when "it's time".

I got that call last week, and was over at his place the very next night armed with my 12wt and some foam crab patterns the size of my fist. We stand out there in complete darkness, casting perpendicular to the current and letting the foam crabs "swing" downstream, just as you might fish for Steelhead or Salmon. Needless to say, it's a very low-percentage game. After a couple hours and a few beers, we were getting ready to call it quits when Jared said he was going to try another spot. He gets out there, makes a few casts...and there is an explosion like someone throwing a cinder block into the water. I look over just in time to see him set the hook and go stumbling toward the wall as the drag on his cheap little reel starts to SCREAM.

The next few moments are a bit blurry, but Jared has a lot of experience fighting these big Snook so he did an excellent job despite the fact that he's relatively new to fly-fishing. He even had to run backwards at one point as the fish charged the wall! After 15 minutes of exhausting action, he finally had it whipped. We taped it at 34" and are pretty sure it weighed more than 12lbs. An exciting fish under any circumstances, but for a new angler to catch it on a topwater fly, it was absolutely mind-blowing. As he released the fish and finally had the chance to catch his breath, he looked up at me and said, "No wonder you love this so much! I'm going to throw my spinning rods away".

Evan Jones



# The National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave 2011

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## Fly Of The Month

### How to copy a crank bait to a fly

And misc. conclusions of a questionably sane fly tier

Craig Smothers

Shawn from Flying Fish Outfitters and I were speaking the other day about jointed crank baits which are so prevalent today. He said that he had come up with a pattern tied out of Enrico Fiber which emulated the action of those crank baits in a fly. We kicked around a few ideas together which is what I plan to discuss here.

The basics of a jointed fly are simple. But there are several ways of coming at it. Russ Hampton from Clermont, FL. was the first person I ever saw tying flies with two hooks. His billfish flies are really something to be seen, and in great demand. Russ and Les Fulcher are friends and Les is pretty good at tying them too. Russ's hook rigs (tandem hooks) are wired together to provide the best possible hook-up ratio. But I want to end up with one hook and more action than wiring hooks would provide. Let's look at some alternatives.

I've said I want to end up with one hook. This is not entirely the case. I want to end up with two hooks, but remove all but the top of the shank on one. Sounds expensive? Not really, because I'll be using one normal Mustad stainless hook and a cheaper plated hook on which the hook is cut away.

How do I join the two hooks? The "sacrificial hook" will have mono strapped to it with Flymaster+ thread. In addition, instead of using Dave's Fleximent to glue it down, I'm opting for brushable Crazy Glue. The mono is then tied with a small loop knot to the hook eye on the other hook. I'd like to touch on another avenue in this mix still using only one hook.

Tube flies have been around for quite a while now. You really haven't seen or heard about them much here as much as in the salmon and striper fisheries north and east of here. Rensetti gave me a tube vice years ago, but I have a Dyna King tube (mandrel) adapter (quite inexpensive) I've used quite a bit. A tube fly is a normal fly tied on to a glorified plastic or metallic straw, rather than a hook. The straw is then slipped onto your leader, behind which is tied a hook. This fly then can slide up and down the leader (in theory). Generally the tube fly is attached to the hook by sliding the hook into a sleeve at the back of the tube. It can then slide away (up the leader) when the fish takes the hook. Confused now? I'll come back to the "tube fly" and what it all has to do with jointed flies later.

Let's get back to the joining of two hooks. The first step is to lash a piece of mono onto the hook shank and permanently glue it on. But is this the "hook", or the "sacrificial hook". It's a matter of design. It can go either way. Typical thinking puts the "hook" on the back fly, so let's go with that first. I'm tying an Enrico baitfish pattern. The tail section is tied on a short shank "hook" and the body section is tied to the "sacrificial hook" in the front. This allows the tail to swing independently of the body. Another example: The entire Enrico baitfish is tied to the "hook". A foam cylinder (popper head) is glued to the "sacrificial hook" in the front. Enrico already manufactures this fly. Another example might be a long shank fly in the back of a silicone skirt (sacrificial hook) in the front. This type of fly is where a tube fly could be used to replace the front "sacrificial hook".

Next let's switch the scheme up. What if the front fly is the "hook" and the back fly is the "sacrificial hook"? There is some thought that the predator fish aims for the eye—this setup puts the "hook" closer to that eye. Let me stop here and give you a warning about using this setup: The rear fly can foul (under wrap) the hook in the front. This is still a fine and doable scheme give some thought. The first fly that came to mind which would adapt well is Ron Whiteley's Estaz Marabou (schminnow). The hook in front would carry the pearl Estaz body full length, with the white marabou tail section tied to the rear "sacrificial hook". Back to tying an Enrico baitfish—tie all but the very back of the tail section on the front "hook" and the center section of the tail on the back "sacrificial hook". Okay, now change the center section of the tail tied on the "sacrificial hook" from Enrico fibers to a rabbit zonker strip.

Enrico fibers don't absorb water. A rabbit zonker strip absorbs water, has a much different weight, and the hair breaths in the water much differently than Enrico fibers. This concept fly should actually bend at the mono as it swims, and sink backwards looking like a baitfish in real trouble. This will be my "concept" fly for this month.



**7 Finished Fly**

**Continued next page**

## ***The Jointed Tail Baitfish.***

I plan to build this fly a bit differently than logic might dictate because of my ultimate goals on its performance. I'm going to join two rabbit strips on the rear "sacrificial hook". Most might have this section ride with the hair up and down relative to the baitfish fly in the front. I plan to have it placed side to side. I believe the bulk of the hair in a side to side placement will actually make the fly swim with a side to side kick (the best laid plans...).

### **The Rear Section**

Hook: Mustad 34966D #2/0 (cheap tinned hook) (actual size of this hook is more like a #4)

Thread: White Flymaster +

Tail: 2-White Rabbit Zonker Strips

Misc: Tear Mender glue (join the strips), Dave's Fleximent

Cut the hook leaving the shank and eye. Place the hook's eye in the vice's jaws. Build a thread base down what's left of the hook then back to the eye. Tie in both rabbit strips on opposite sides of the hook with the skin sides in along the shank right at the eye. Build a smooth head, whip finish, trim the thread and glue with Dave's Fleximent.

Remove the hook from the vice and glue the two leather strips together with Tear Mender glue (buy at Ace Hardware).

Set aside to dry briefly (dries fast).

### **The Front Section**

Hook: Mustad 34007 #1/0

Thread: White Flymaster +

Body: White and a colored Enrico Fibers,

Throat: Red Enrico Silky Fibers

Eyes: 7mm 3D eyes

Misc: #20 stiff mono, 6mm pearl glass beads, Dave's Fleximent, Fletch Tite glue, brushable Krazy Glue

Tie the mono to the rear section using a standard fishing knot. Don't use a loop knot in this case, I want a stiff connection. Slide 2-6mm beads down to the hook eye.

Place the real hook in the vice and build a thread base all the way down the level portion of the shank. With the thread in the back of the hook lay the mono attached to the rear section and wrap a few times over the mono loosely. Pull the mono forward until the bead just touches the back of the hook. Remember, the hair on the rear section should point to the sides. Make any adjustment and wrap the mono down tightly along the top of the hook all the way to the eye, trim the mono, and return to the back. Soak the thread with Krazy Glue and let dry.

**Follow my steps to build an Enrico baitfish from previous months.**



**1 Rear Section**



**2 Attached to Hook**



**3 Front hook Stage 1**



**4 Front Hook Stage 2**



**5 Front Hook Stage 3**



**6 Front Hook Stage 4**

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

### By C.W. “Don” Coleman, *Chief Curmudgeon*

**DON'T FORGET** – You are free to agree, disagree, or interpret my opinions in any way you see fit. There are no fly tying police or fly fishing police. Don't be afraid to think for yourself or differ with the “experts.” But do be polite about it. There are not many things you can do today that leave you completely free to do as you wish. Even take a fish home to eat once in a while—as long as it is legal to do so. Sometimes we take this ecology bit too far.

**FIGHTING FISH** – Suddenly you have a fish on. What do you do now? First of all I hope you struck the fish with a slip-strike and lifted the butt of the rod instead of jerking the rod tip up. The rod tip is for casting and the rod butt is for fighting fish. Most of the inshore fish wading fly fishers catch can easily be handled by stripping in the fly line with your line hand. Don't adhere to the old adage to “keep the rod tip up and get the fish on the reel.” A lot of fish are lost because of that poor advice. You cannot put much pressure on a fish with the rod tip and you can blow it all trying to reel in loose line instead of fighting the fish. If you do have a large fish on, let it run and put itself on the reel. I hope you didn't set the drag up to 3 or 5 pounds as some “experts” recommend. If you did a sudden jolt will occur when the fish comes tight against the reel and that jolt could pull the hook out. Keep just enough drag on the reel so that when you jerk on the line it will not backlash. If you need more drag during the fight, use the palming rim. Fight large fish by keeping the rod tip down and pointing at the fish and fighting with the first stripping guide. It's called fighting “down and dirty.” The old timers used to say “give them the butt.” Even with a 12 weight tarpon rod you can only exert about 3 ¾ pounds on a fish with the rod tip. Whereas you can exert up to 12 pounds on a fish when fighting “down and dirty.”

Don't fight a fish by pumping the rod and reeling in the line you gained. When you pressure a fish it tries very hard to fight back. You can gently apply even pressure and practically lead most fish wherever you want. Often you can remove all pressure and the fish will simply stop and wonder what's going on. Only pump the rod when you cannot move a very large fish any other way. And fly rods are not built to do this successfully.

**GETTING SKUNKED** — We all have had our good days and our bad days on the water. Some days you just cannot win, despite the impressions presented by authors in the magazines. And you have to remember that the good fish shown in the videos are the best caught all day—or all week. Dolly Parton say's “We wouldn't have a rainbow without the rain.” She also has her own weapons, she calls them Shock and Awe. Maybe that's a good name for a new series of flies. Nobody promised you a rose garden... but hope springs eternal. Sorry about all that. Just remember that “fish are simple, wild creatures not possessing nearly the brain power most match-the-hatch advocates attribute to them.” —Syl Nemes

Joe Bursel and Preston Jones recently returned from a smallmouth bass trip down Maine. Ayuh, ayuh. They were successful with the catch despite temperatures requiring ski clothes. Apparently Preston was unable to find any outhouses to photograph as on his last Alaska trip.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to briefly recognize a few of our club members for outstanding achievements: first of all, I want to thank Bob Parker for doing such a great job with this newsletter over the past couple of years. I believe that Bob has held just about every position on our Board at some point, and while the newsletter is our club's highest-rated benefit, it can also be a bit of a thankless job. So THANK YOU, Bob, for all your great work. This is Bob's last newsletter L so if you have been looking for a "low impact" way to contribute to MCFF this is your chance.

Also want to send a shout out to Brent Wilson and Justin Hamblet, who FINALLY hooked their first Tarpon on fly after many, many fruitless mornings in the boat. They are living proof that you don't have to be an expert to get out there and be successful, you just need lots of dedication and a little luck.

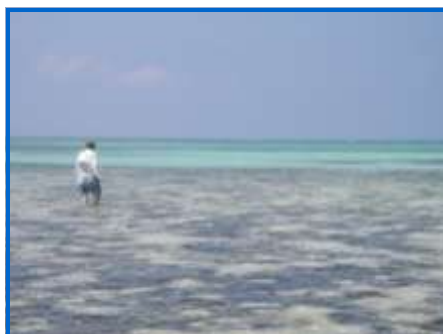
I know that many of you have left the State by this point in the year, but to those who remain – I look forward to seeing you (and hearing your fish stories) at next week's meeting

Evan Jones

### Cayman Islands May 2011

I recently went down to Grand Cayman Island for a friends' wedding (yep, good friends to have). It wasn't really a fishing trip, but of course I brought some gear "just in case". Ended up with a couple of free mornings while everyone else was diving, so I rented a little car and drove around the island checking out some spots that looked good on the map. I had no guide and no clue, just headed to the NW corner of the island where I could see a big expanse of white sand flats on the satellite.

To make a long story short, I walked the flats for a while and ended up stumbling into a Bonefish bonanza! I'd like to claim it was all skill but I'm pretty sure dumb luck is more like it. Took me a few tries to adjust from "Redfish mode" as I spooked the first couple of groups I saw, but after maybe 20 minutes I got the first one. Ended up with 3 over the course of those 2 mornings, with one that probably weighed 5lbs. I still wouldn't consider Grand Cayman a "destination" Bonefishery, but it sure was fun while it lasted.



## Outings Report

Outing Report: Point of Rocks 6/11/2011

After squeezing into the Tokyo style "parking lot" we made the short trek down the beach to our destination, where we were met with gorgeous, calm weather. After blind casting into the shadows for a few minutes it became apparent the sun wasn't going to crest over the steep seawall anytime soon, so I walked a couple hundred yards north to Crescent Beach where the sun was now high enough to sight fish. It didn't take long to find the fish, as pod after pod of snook cruised leisurely through the surf, just feet from the sand.

Unfortunately, hooking them was another story. Even with a 12 ft leader, relatively light 25 lb fluorocarbon shock tip-pet, and a small, sparsely tied schminnow the fish were beyond finicky, spooking at the slightest movement of the rod tip and ignoring the few decent presentations I was able to make. After accepting the futility of casting to the numerous large pods, I started focusing on singles cruising in just inches of water, where I had a few follows but no hookups.

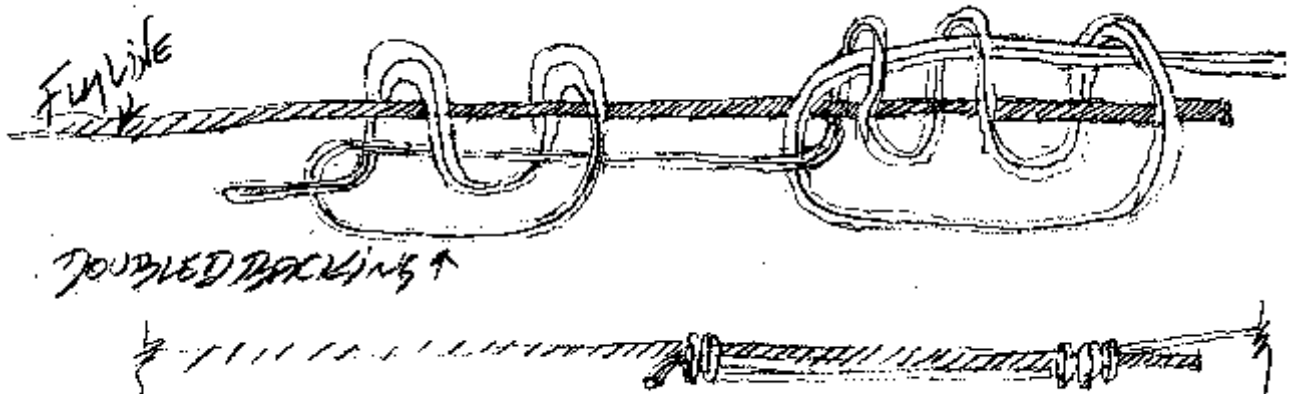
All the while the crowds were growing, and in no time the beach looked like the World's fair, making it impossible to squeeze in anything but the occasional roll cast. Strangely the fish didn't seem to mind the commotion, as they continued to cruise the surf in just inches of water, calmly weaving their way down the beach among the sunbathers and splashing children. Amazingly, in addition to the hundreds of snook, I was able to spot the occasional redfish, including one upper slot fish charging down the beach in water so skinny his back was practically exposed. Given all the hungry dolphin, tarpon, and sharks lurking the deeper water I can't blame him.

Despite the crowds I was able to catch a few fish, including the obligatory ladyfish and to my surprise a redfish, which must have gone all of 9 inches. I guess you'll never know what you'll catch in the surf. As I made my way back to the parking lot I chatted with a few other group members, many of which spent at least as much time enjoying the "scenery" as fishing. Hard to blame them given the multiple reports of a woman wearing a duct tape bikini.

Tight Lines,

Jeff Rasband  
Outings Coordinator

Underwater notes: At our last meeting, 5/24/11, the question of connecting the fly line to the backing came up because it is not funny watching your line disappear. My solution, because I would rather change spools than line on the water and prefer a more permanent connection, is called the "Kowality connection": Starting with the backing, create a double line with a triple Surgeons knot or eight turn Bimini about a foot or so long. Proceed to tie a three turn Uni at the end of your fly line, tighten, and proceed to tie another approx. an inch or so further up the line, leaving the two knots connected. After carefully cinching down the knots, coat all knots with Get Super Glue. After glue sets, trim loose ends. Just as a Bimini provides a bit of shock absorption with mono, this knot does too. If you loose anything after this it will be your whole outfit.



Denis Kowal

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

### EARLY FLY FISHING MEMORIES

Bamboo Fly Rods with metal ferules and two tip sections--and Medalist reels.

Double tapered fly lines with letter designations such as HGH that had to be hung on streamside bushes to dry and be dressed with floatant several times a day—a time to relax and eat lunch.

Willow creels with a pair of beautiful trout lying on a bed of ferns—"Keepers".

The beautiful streams in the uplands of the Endless Mountains—Solitude and peace.

Patching rubber hip boots with automobile inner tube patches—The Robins are back.

Struggling to cast 60 feet and learning to cast with your elbow at your side.

Forest trails to that secret spot--Trilliums and Skunk Cabbage and Red Winged Blackbirds.

Climbing over ice flows on opening day to reach open water and hot coffee from a thermos and dipping your rod in the water to melt the ice on the guides so you could cast again.

Gluing felt to the soles of hip boots to provide traction in the freestone streams.

Maple syrup time and the red buds of maples signaling that it is time to tie flies for the opening of trout season: Dry flies and wet flies and bucktail streamers—The Royal Coachman and Light Cahills and Lead Winged Coachmen and the Adams and a few Black Nosed Dace.

Tying tapered gut leaders with short sections because that was as long as we could get, and mastering the Blood knot and the Turle knot and the Perfection Loop, and metal tins with felt liners to keep gut leaders wet and pliable.

Roll casting while wading up narrow, rocky streams and false casting to dry your fly.

Only a few days left of the fishing season and hunting season just opened—do I go fishing or grouse hunting? — Indian Summers—remember the smell of Hoppe's #9?

Cars with running boards so wide that you could sit on them to don your hip boots or eat your Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches—where should we try next?

Early mornings with the mist rising above your favorite river—cold fingers and checkered red and black wool shirts and favorite fishing hats and colorful red bandanas and license buttons.

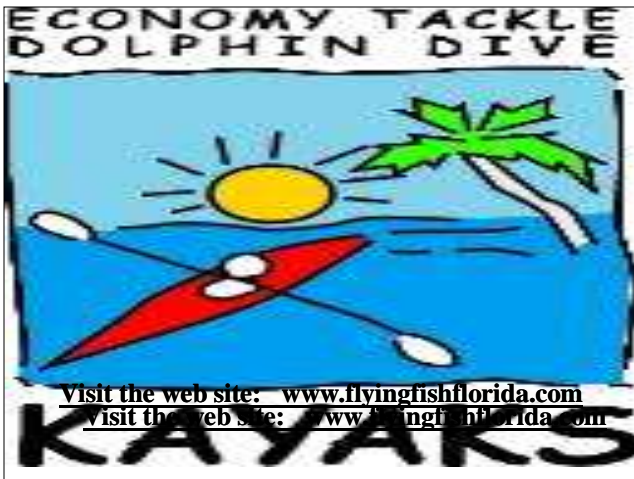
Cleaning and cooking trout over an open fire alongside the stream, along with the good talk between fishing buddies—the best of times—the smell of pipe smoke and wood smoke.

Figure eight loops catching the early morning sun and water droplets looking like diamonds.

Evening spinner falls and swooping swallows and coming home to an understanding wife.

"Where go the years? Down what tunnel of time are poured the precious days." -- L'Amour

A little nostalgia for the old folks. Thanks, Don. See ya on the other side.



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### **News from Flying Fish Outfitters regarding our good friend Julie DeStefano.**

At age 12, Julie had a liver transplant at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha due to Budd Chiari Syndrome, which causes blood clots in the liver. Smooth sailing for 16 years until March 2011, when recurrent blood clots occurred but were treated with an angioplasty. Julie returned home and enjoyed feeling healthy for about 3 weeks, until symptoms returned. Julie returned to Omaha and after numerous tests ruling out more clots, learned that the damage to the liver was extensive and non-recoverable. In June, she was placed on the national organ transplant waiting list. It is important to use this experience to educate people about the importance of organ & tissue donation as there is a critical need in our country. To learn more visit [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org).

Visit their web site: [www.flyingfishflorida.com](http://www.flyingfishflorida.com)

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### **Capt. Jamie Allen**

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July, 2011  
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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.**

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**Directions to meeting**

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