



THE FISH'N RAG

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
FLORIDA FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 542345
 MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32954-2345

DEDICATED TO EDUCATION, CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING

Editor: Betty Brown
2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Ron Nemetz, 254-3429
 nemetzp@msn.com

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Jim Glass, 751-6781
 jglass24@cfl.rr.com

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 vieradonna@aol.com

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Denny DeMuth, 446-44248
 ddemuth154@hotmail.com

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Randy Cleveland

GMAPP Records Keeper

Jim Wood, 725-4581
 info@floridaflyfishing.org

Mentor Program Coordinator

Betty Brown, 504-7881
 lizbrown@cfl.rr.com

Newsletter Editor

Betty Brown, 504-7881
 lizbrown@cfl.rr.com

Youth Activities Coordinator

Jon Mallory, 452-4861
 info@floridaflyfishing.org

Phone Committee Chairman

Jim Glass, 751-6781
 jglass24@cfl.rr.com

FEBRUARY 2010

floridaflyfishing.org

PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

**IS THIS GLOBAL
 WARMING?**

With the recent cold snap and fish kill we need to be better stewards of our fisheries adhering to catch and release. The fish we have lost during the cold spell has been disheartening.

The past couple of weeks the temperature has risen. With sunny days and the temperature increase, and light to moderate winds, the water temperature has risen and the visibility is pretty clear. This should give the fish a better chance for survival.

The fish seem to be adjusting to the water temps and feeding in the middle of the day. If you look in the right places you should find some redbfish and black drum. Of course where the birds are is a good indicator and also you could look for some sort of bait movement.

The season for snook and tarpon is closed but the sea trout fishing is still open. This is another time we need to practice catch and release. Looking at all the fish kill we have seen in fresh and salt water we need to realize how fragile our fisheries are.

We have an active club with a full range of activities. There is something for everyone, from beginner to expert, from the very young to those who remember when all fly rods were made of cane, and for all skill levels, from those who haven't yet held a fly rod to those who can cast more fly line than you can buy.

At our meetings everyone enjoys sharing their knowledge of fly fishing with one another and others who want to learn. We also enjoy the camaraderie of fly fishing and have a good time doing it.

Whether you are a novice or an expert fly fisher, we welcome you and look forward to you joining us at one of our outings.

Ron Nemetz

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IN MEMORY

Gail Louise Eggers
3/18/1939 – 1/23/2010

Ron Eggers' wife, Gail Louise Eggers, lost her 12-year battle with breast cancer on January 23, 2010 at home where she was surrounded by her loving husband and family. She fought courageously and always tried to have a positive attitude especially for Ron, her husband of more than 52 years. Ron was her caregiver and constant companion during those very difficult years. He will be lost without his beautiful Gail but is comforted by the fact that she is no longer suffering.

A card was sent on behalf of the club to express our sincere condolences to Ron and his family upon their loss.

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBER



Ed Lopez joined the club in November 2009. We introduced him in December with photo only because we didn't have an application at that time. Now we can relate that Ed is an experienced fly fisherman with interest in both fresh and salt water fishing. He's anxious for the club to help him improve his fly tying, rod building and casting skills. He thinks we can teach him "anything and everything" and it would appear we may be able to count on him for the same from him. Ed and his wife, Tami, make their home in Mims. If you'd like to get in touch with him for a day of fishing, his email address is eflj60@aol.com. You can get phone numbers in the roster or from Betty Brown.

Glad to have you on board Ed.

BUSINESS



BOARD MEETING: The next board meeting will be March 2 at Donna Gaber's home.

DUES: Check your roster for the date your dues are due. They are \$20 per person plus \$5 for family members, if there are any. Send to the P. O. Box at the top of page 1. Make checks payable to: FFFA.

All dues or membership payment should be given directly to Treasurer Chad Helping or his designated alternate or mailed to the P. O. Box on page 1. DO NOT give cash to another member to turn in.

Anyone who still owes dues from 2009 should catch up immediately or let Chad Helping know of extenuating circumstances so we can work with you.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: If you don't have an FFFA Membership Card, you can get one from the Treasurer Chad Helping. Your membership card may need to be presented to our supporters to get discounts for their products or services.

BUDGET

The proposed 2010 Budget approved by the Board is attached. If you are unable to attend the February meeting where you can vote in person, you may sign the enclosed copy and give it to Chad Helping to report for you or mail it to the address on the front page of the newsletter.

NOTICE ON DUES

Even though there has been a note in the Business Section (above) for the past two years that tells members not to give cash to another member to pay their dues, it has happened again that the cash was not applied to dues and the member can not provide a receipt or a membership card showing he has paid — perhaps it went into the kitty for raffles, we don't know. This is the second time in two years this has happened. Therefore, to be sure the paying member gets credit for payment of his/her dues in this situation payment must be made by check. Cash will no longer be accepted from one member on behalf of another member.

ROSTER UPDATE

The updated 2010 FFA Membership Roster based upon the changes that have been brought to our attention will be going out in March instead of this month. This gives folks one more month to catch up on dues from last year and will keep us from paying extra postage this month. Future additions/corrections will be pen-and-ink corrections announced in the newsletter. If you need to get in touch with a new member or can't reach an old number, call Betty Brown for the up-to-date roster information.

FISHING REPORTS

This section of the "Rag" is for your reports. Let us know where you're fishing, what you're fishing with and how you're doing. It's as important to know where the fish aren't as it is to know where they are—so give **Randy Cleveland** the info if it's important for an upcoming trip or give **Betty Brown** your info if you'd like to pass on general information or do a little braggin' in the "Rag."

Local fishing has really taken a beating with the severe cold spell in January. Unfortunately, it has taken a toll on snook and tarpon in saltwater. The massive fish kills have not only damaged the tilapia population but, hopefully, have depleted armored catfish in fresh water lakes and ponds. Destroying the armored catfish is a good thing since they do a lot of damage to bass fry and the netters who catch them also do damage to the bass, bream and crappie when they rip them from their nets and leave them gasping for air when their gills are torn. In Lake Pointsett the floating fish were so thick in places you could almost walk across them. Those that washed ashore are so numerous that even the hundreds of buzzards in the area can't keep up leaving a terrible stench.



Steve Lo [1/29]: Went fishing for shad at SR46. He caught only one shad, but landed quite a few crappie and 2 little bass. It was fun.

GMAPP



Top Freshwater Species for February

American Shad	234 Total; 192 in St. Johns River
Spotted Sunfish	133 Total; 65 in Tamiami Trail
Black Crappie	75 Total; 60 in St. Johns River
Largemouth Bass	54 Total; 20 in Lake Washington
Bluegill	42 Total; 23 in Lake Lizzie
Hickory Shad	34 Total; 28 in St. John's River

Top Saltwater Species for February

Ladyfish	420 Total; 399 in Indian River
Spotted Seatrout	124 Total; 76 in Sykes Creek
Jack Crevalle	91 Total; 51 in Indian River
Pinfish	53 Total; 50 in Banana River
Bluefish	45 Total; 42 in Pt Canaveral
Spanish Mackerel	25 Total; 25 in Pt Canaveral

MEMORIES

Jan 12

Randy Cleveland demonstrated a shad fly to fish the St. Johns River. Those who attended the workshop enjoyed the session.



Jan 26

Doug Cheney's program on shad fishing was excellent and included his wry sense of humor in telling the story of where and how to catch



shad. Doug says the easy way to catch shad is to forget what you know about fly fishing because you'll be using weighted lines and non-weighted flies and going down. He gave us many tips you probably won't find anywhere else that will definitely increase your ability to catch shad and put you on the right technique to catch tarpon.

We were very glad to see **Beth Clifford** return and members, like **Rick Anderson**, **Steve Lo** and **Sigmund Sarkady**, bringing guests to enjoy our meetings. Some have even become members.

Prizes were won by:

- Denny DeMuth** 8 wt. Medalist fly reel and an 8wt. line donated by **Bob Kennedy** (friend of Jim Glass)
- Al Luther** Mystery Bag containing Clousers and Deceivers and a few other things
- Ned Scheerhorn** Fly Tying Materials
- Bob Trainer** 12 assorted flies donated by **Ned Scheerhorn**
- Jerry Wimberly** "Guy Harvey" fishing cap (snook) donated by **Gini McKain**

In a special call, **Donna Gaber** won a DVD set on boating and **Randy Cleveland** won 3 DVDs on fly tying—all were donated by **Gini McKain**.

Jan 31 (Sunday)

Report by Ned Scheerhorn:

Our fishing/clean-up trip on January 31st had an auspicious start. At 7 am the wind was blowing too hard to fly fish and it was very cold with the wind chill. A quick poll revealed everyone would rather take a field trip to more of Ned's favorite local spots. We hit up about six new areas for folks to try in the future and then returned for the clean-up. We had a great showing. Participants included **Rick Anderson**, **Randy Cleveland**, **Beth Clifford**, **Denny DeMuth**, **Steve Lo**, **Gary Nelson**, **Rik Ojeda**, **Steve Roman**, **Bob Trainer**, and **Ned Scheerhorn**. The group picked up 19 bags of trash, two tires, and two PVC poles. Rik got the first catch--a flattened beer can. Randy and Rick both competed for largest catch with Rick edging out Randy because his tire had a rim attached. Beth located the largest "school of trash", with honorable mention going to Bob. After the clean-up the group enjoyed a gourmet fried chicken, potato salad, and baked bean lunch. Special thanks to

Randy for bringing the sodas and helping dispose of the trash with Ned at the Merritt Island Refuge Visitors' Center. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to next quarter's clean-up/fishing trip. Hope to see you all there! [See page 6 for photo.]

COMING EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

Workshops will be the second Tuesday of the month from 6-7:45 p.m. in Room 2 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa

Feb 9

Randy Cleveland will be demonstrating a shrimp fly which will be of interest to the beginner as well as the experienced tier. Materials packages will be available on a first-come/first-serve basis for \$1 per package.

Those of you who have an extra vise are asked to bring it along so those who don't have one can try their hand at fly tying.

Mar 9

Randy Cleveland will be introducing a frog pattern this month. It's a fly anyone can do and you'll have fun doing it. Again, materials packages will be available on a first-come/first-serve basis for \$1 per package.

Experienced tiers with extra vises are asked to bring them along.

Randy asks that anyone interested in doing a workshop (fly tying, knots, rod/line components, etc.) to contact him as soon as possible.

GENERAL MEETINGS

General Meetings will be the fourth Tuesday of the month at Kay's Bar-B-Q, SR 520, Cocoa; Dinner at 6 pm; Meeting from 7-9 pm.

Feb 23

Dave Carbone will have a Power Point presentation about fishing in Alaska. This program should make you want to pick up the phone and make your reservation.

You will also be voting on the 2010 Budget at this meeting. See the attachment.

Prizes will be:

- Penn 209 Level Wind Reel with 20 lb. test line (donated by **Bob Edwards**)
- BassPro Shop Fly Tying Kit (donated by **Jim Glass**)
- Assorted Fly Tying Materials
- Guy Harvey cap
- Grab (surprise) bag
- VCR tapes

FISHING TRIPS

Feb 27

Weather-permitting, we'll fish for shad, crappie and bass near the Little Econ. Even if you don't catch shad, you will have fun with crappie and bass. We'll have lunch on site at the Little Econ.

Mar 27 - TBD

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Sykes Creek Adventures 2010

"Mark your calendar now for Sykes Creek Adventures 2010! The Friends of Ulumay and Brevard County Parks and Recreation are partnering together and working hard to make this year the best one ever. Plan now to come and be a part of this year's family eco-festival at Kiwanis Island Park on February 20th. Thank you in advance for your enthusiasm in being a part of educating our citizens and inspiring them to preserve, protect and enjoy all of Brevard County's natural wonders."

Susan Boorse

Environmental Education Supervisor
Brevard County Parks and Recreation
Central Area: Merritt Island/Beaches

New Book Release

Lee Duncan's first book, THE OFFICER'S GIRL, will be available in bookstores, Walmart & Target in mid-April, or can be pre-ordered at www.amazon.com. Lee is publishing under the pen name *Leigh Duncan*. Harlequin also will be publishing Lee's second book, CATCH OF A LIFETIME focuses on the romance between a young widow and owner of a fly fishing shop who tangles with a real estate developer over the future of a stretch of pristine Merritt Island riverside. It will be on the market in early 2011. Check out Lee's new website: www.leighduncan.com.

Congratulations Lee!

[Note: Lee is the wife of FFFA member Joe Duncan.]

FWC RECOGNITION

In May 2009 **Thomas J. King Ph.D.** who is with the Center for Fisheries Enhancement, Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota spoke to our members about a new tarpon research program. The Mote Marine Laboratory requires production of juvenile fish and invertebrates for pilot release-recapture experiments. At that meeting, Dr. King gave out kits with which to take obtain DNA samples from tarpon. One of our more active members, who eagerly volunteered to help with this research, was Jon Mallory. From mid-year thru December 2009, Jon submitted tarpon samples one after another making his input the second most received. It should be noted that the person who came in first is a fishing guide who was allowed to record not only his own catch but those of his clients.



In January 2010, the FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute recognized Jon's contributions with the certificate below.

Congratulations, Jon!

[Jon says he has now submitted 215 DNA reports.]

ROD BUILDING CLASS

Tom Gillen is looking for 2 or 3 people to participate in a rod building class he is organizing. There will be 4-6 evening sessions at his home. The approximate cost of the materials kit is \$75. Please give him a call ASAP if you're interested so you can order your materials before the classes can begin.

**FOR SALE
CLUB SHIRTS, CAPS, and DECALS**

The club has a supply of beautiful FFFA embroidered baseball-style caps with the club's emblem. The fishing caps will be sold for \$15 each at the general meetings. In addition, we can order polo style shirts with the club logo and a pocket for \$20 prepaid for S, M, L, & XL. Larger sizes are available for a little more. (Women's and children's sizes are also available.) All shirts are available in a variety of colors. Order them at one meeting and get them at the next. We have 1-1/4 inch pins with the club logo on them (same as page 1 of the Rag) that are suitable for hats, jackets or shirts for \$5; Fisherman Angel pins are available for \$1 and we still have 2 sizes of decals available which are great for your auto, fishing box, etc. \$1 for \$2 each. Each of the items available is a great way to show club involvement. Why not wear a cap or shirt when you visit seminars, demonstrations or our Supporters? See Donna Gaber.

**ARTICLES OR
"WANTED" OR "FOR SALE" ADS**

If you have an article, a "For Sale" or "Wanted" ad, or anything else you'd like included in the next newsletter, please give the information to **Betty Brown** no later than the Sunday following the general meeting:

Email: lizbrown@cfl.rr.com
Phones: 321-504-7881 (H), 321-749-9949 (C)
Snail mail: 855 Clifton's Cove Ct., Cocoa, FL 32926

FOR SALE

Ideal for Snowbirds
Mobile Home, 56' X 12', 2 B/R, 2 B
35-yr-old unit was renovated in 2004;
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Waterproof Coating on Roof applied
in 2009.
Asking-- \$18,000.

Gini McKain
603-300-2516 or vmckain@att.net

To see, contact manager at
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Whispering Pines, Titusville
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[Whispering Pines is a 55+ Community](#)

FOR Great deal! SALE

Minn-Kota Electric Motor
Model: 2006 Riptide 55 lb. Thrust
Hours Used: 4
Designed for fresh- and salt-water use.
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\$325 for all

Contact Judy Costa @ 321-749-9124



[Merritt Island Wildlife Refuse Outing January 31](#)

FWC NEWS

For immediate release: January 14, 2010
Contact: Lee Schlesinger, 850-487-0554

Grouper fishing to close in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters

The recreational and commercial harvest of shallow-water groupers (including gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper) will close from Jan. 19 through April 30 in all Atlantic Ocean and Monroe County state waters (inside 3 nautical miles from shore).

This closure coincides with a shallow-water grouper closure in effect in Atlantic federal waters adjacent to Florida waters (beyond 3 nautical miles from shore). These closures have been implemented to address overfishing of grouper in the Atlantic.

For more information, including [regulations for grouper](#) that apply in Gulf of Mexico waters, go to MyFWC.com/Rules and click on "Fishing – Saltwater."

For immediate release: January 26, 2010
Contact: Carli Segelson, 727-896-8626

FWC records unprecedented number of cold-related manatee deaths

The cold period that began Jan. 2 and lasted nearly two weeks continues to impact Florida manatees. Biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute documented more than 100 manatee carcasses in state waters from the beginning of the year through Jan. 23.

Biologists report that the preliminary cause of death for 77 of these animals is cold stress. Although pending final review, the number of cold-stress deaths exceeds the previous record of 56 for that category in a single year, which was set in 2009.

In addition, researchers note exposure to cold this year likely contributed to the deaths of several newborn manatees, classified as "perinatal." Researchers continue to recover and examine carcasses, so the total is expected to rise; however, the rate should slow down as water temperatures warm.

The recent cold snap exposed manatees in Florida to cold water temperatures. Exposure to low temperatures over a period of time can cause a condition called manatee cold-stress syndrome, which can result in death.

Since receiving the initial reports of cold stress-related manatee deaths on Jan. 7, FWC biologists have been working closely with FWC law enforcement and partner agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to respond to the high number of manatee deaths. FWC staff members and conservation partners are working extended hours to recover and transport carcasses to the FWC's Marine Mammal Pathobiology Laboratory in St. Petersburg. There, biologists perform necropsies, or animal autopsies, on each manatee to determine the cause of death and gather additional data. Some carcasses that cannot be transported are examined in the field.

Since the cold weather conditions began to affect Florida, FWC researchers have worked diligently to rescue several manatees and continue to respond to reports of distressed manatees.

"We are deeply concerned about these impacts on manatees and other fish and wildlife," said FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto. "We appreciate all the time and effort being put into the process of documenting the effects of this unprecedented event and ask the public to assist in the effort by reporting dead or distressed manatees to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922)."

For additional information about manatee conservation, visit MyFWC.com/Manatee. For more information on manatee mortality research, visit <http://research.MyFWC.com/manatees>.

SEASON OPENINGS/CLOSINGS

Gulf grouper sport season closes Feb. 1

Snook harvest is still prohibited.

North Fla. spotted seatrout season closes

Feb 1 [...State regulations prohibit the harvest and possession of spotted seatrout from Feb. 1 until March 1 each year in all Atlantic waters north of the Flagler-Volusia county line to the Florida-Georgia border...]

For full information on these important notices dated 1/28/10, go to www.myfwc.com

SUPPORTERS

Show your appreciation by stopping by to support the businesses that support us.
[Why not wear your club cap or shirt to introduce yourself as a club member?]



**4, 6, & 8 hour rates for Mosquito Lagoon,
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2010 CALENDAR

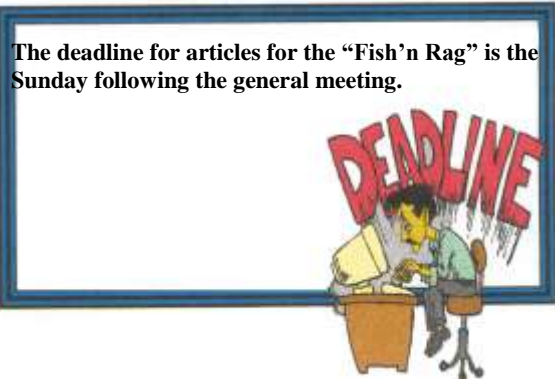
Unless otherwise noted, the following days and locations apply:

Board Meetings, 1st Monday of the month, 7-9pm; location as stated below

Workshops, Cocoa Library, 2nd Tuesday of the month; 2nd floor, room 4; 6:00 – 7:45 pm

General Meetings, Kay's Bar-B-Q on SR520 just west of Clearlake Rd in Cocoa, 4th Tuesday (6 pm dinner from menu, 7 pm meeting, 7:30 pm program)

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|---|---|
| <p>Feb 9 Workshop
 Program: Shrimp Fly
 Presenter: Randy Cleveland</p> <p>Feb 14 VALENTINE'S DAY</p> <p>Feb 15 PRESIDENT'S DAY</p> <p>Feb 23 General Meeting
 Vote on 2010 Budget
 Program: Fly Fishing Alaska
 Presenter: Dave Carbone</p> <p>Feb 20 Sykes Creek Adventures 2010
 Eco-Festival
 Kiwanis Island Park
 11 am – 3 pm</p> <p>Feb 27 Fishing Trip – Shad (tentative)</p> <p>Mar 1 Board Meeting - 2010 Activity Planning
 Location: Donna Gaber's Home</p> <p>Mar 9 Workshop
 Program: Frog Pattern Fly
 Presenter: Randy Cleveland</p> <p>Mar 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins</p> <p>Mar 20 First Day of Spring</p> <p>Mar 23 General Meeting
 Program: Capt. Mike Badarack
 Presenter: Local Saltwater Fishing</p> <p>Mar 27 Fishing Trip – Shad (Tentative)</p> <p>Apr 4 EASTER</p> <p>Apr 5 Board Meeting
 Location: Jim Glass' Home</p> <p>Apr 13 Workshop
 Program: TBD
 Presenter: TBD</p> <p>Apr 27 General Meeting</p> | <p>May 1 Fishing Trip</p> <p>May 3 Board Meeting
 Location: Randy Cleveland's Home</p> <p>May 9 MOTHER'S DAY</p> <p>May 11 Workshop
 Program: TBD
 Presenter: TBD</p> <p>May 25 General Meeting</p> <p>May 31 MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p>Jun 7 Board Meeting
 Location: TBD</p> <p>Jun 8 Workshop
 Program: TBD
 Presenter: TBD</p> <p>Jun 20 FATHER'S DAY</p> <p>Jun 21 First Day of Summer</p> <p>Jun 22 General Meeting
 Program: TBD
 Presenter: TBD</p> <p>Jun 26 Fishing Trip</p> |
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