



The Take



“From The Mountains

To The Sea”



CFFC - Meeting second Tuesday each month at Gander Mountain, Mooresville Exit 36

March—April 2008
Volume 2 Issue 2

18th Annual SE Council-FFF Conclave & Fly Fishing Show May 29-31, 2008



We're pleased to announce that the Conclave is returning to Callaway Gardens again this year.

If you missed out on the 2007 SEC Conclave, you missed a lot! Callaway Gardens was an outstanding facility, and Pine Mountain a great location to enjoy the Great Outdoors. The Gardens offered a spectacular display of flora, but for many fly rodders it was the lakes that were most memorable. Monster bluegill and large bass were among the many tales we heard at the Saturday night banquet.

Callaway Gardens has numerous other activities that a family can enjoy. During the conclave, the Gardens will have a daily programs on wildlife, adventure hiking, and clinics encompassing ecology, golf, tennis, and much more.



"This is by far the best show around. These guys understand - it's not about selling stuff. Anglers come to the shows to improve skills, learn, have fun, and maybe catch a few fish. The FFF's SE Council gets it right!"

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Club Officers

President: Bob Thomas
 1st Vice-President: John Thomas
 2nd Vice-President: Kirk Drowne
 Treasurer: Jim Fletemier
 Secretary: Cheryl Drowne
 Membership Director: Kim Scronce
 Programs Director: Wilke Tebbens
 Newsletter Director: Gary Jones
 Conservation Director: Tim Wilhelm
 Librarian Director: Jim Glock
 Fly Tying Director: Josh Almond
 Website Director: Daniel Grose
 Past President: Jack Cummings

Callaway Gardens - Pine Mountain, Georgia

Special guests including Steve Rajeff, Jon Cave & "Stack" Scoville
Seminars and workshops on many fly fishing topics

Fly-tying demos and instruction by dozens of **the best tiers in the country**

Free fishing on one of the private Callaway Gardens lakes for show attendees

Casting instruction for novices to experts

Low-cost **hosted fishing** trips on private Callaway lakes

An abundance of **non-angling activities** for family members

Commercial exhibitors with great deals and special offers

Special saving for Callaway activities

Special rates on fishing boat rentals



This conclave is open to all of the CFFC members it is well worth the trip. For more information and registration forms go to the Southeast FFF web site, www.fffsec.org/index.shtm, or look for more information on the CFFC website and forum.

www.carolinaflyfishingclub.org/

Even Nightcrawler can catch fish at Callaway Gardens.



Notes from da Prez

Wow it is hard to believe that it is April already and we are in full swing for the spring fishing season.

I want to give a big pat on the back to my fellow CFFC board members. The entire Board has been working really hard this year to get the club organized and moving forward. We have several members working on developing solid programs we can move forward with that will allow us to fulfill our obligations as a Federation of Fly Fishers Charter Club. Presently we are working on obtaining Fly Rods, Tying Equipment and tools so that we may start educational programs. Several topics are being kicked around for conservation projects, and we are continuing our efforts with the organizers from Project Healing waters to see if we can get the North Carolina Program off the ground.

The monthly meetings have been outstanding, thanks to our activities Chair, Wilke Tebbens.

The club has several more outings planned over the next few months, covering many different species and water types. If members are interested in learning new waters or fishing methods, may I suggest you come on out and join in the fun. We are fortunate to have some true "masters" of the sport as members of the club who so freely share their years of knowledge.

Finally, I would like to close by asking all of you to give feedback. The CFFC is your club and nothing happens with out member participation. If you have an idea for a meeting or a conservation project, or maybe a club outing you would like to see organized; speak to a board member or post it on the club web site. With over 100 active members now on the rolls, I am sure there are many great ideas out there and I'd like to hear about them.

See you on the water
 Bob

The Blowfly Chronicles Continued

The Blowfly Chronicles

By John Thomas

(continued from last issue)

I was sitting on the couch the other night in my usual half-comatose state: sucking down excessive amounts of swill. I hear a crash in the bathroom, followed by a string of profanity. No sweat for me on this one. Culvert Cat (a.k.a Alibi) is sitting by me with his ears perked up and his eyes wide berserk open. (I like to keep Alibi close just in case of an emergency such as a turned-over chair or a caved-in Christmas tree.)

Anyway, after the string of profanity, I hear Carol bellowing for help in the bathroom. I leisurely stroll in there and there she is in her natural-born state (unclothed!), standing outside the tub where the shower curtain, liner, rod and all have collapsed on top of her and she is flailing her arms and fighting it to the very death. I'm laughing so hard that I can't breathe. Of course, I cop a feel as I'm getting the curtain off her, which makes her even madder. The only thing that I don't understand is, why do I get the blame and the ration of crap for her screw-up when all I am doing is sitting on the couch licking on a bottle of cheap wine?

Why is it when I go on a fishing trip and when I get back, there is always something broken?

- Got home from Hatteras last year and the water line to the washer has exploded. Carol has called the Fire Department out to shut off the water.

- Got home from the Florida Gulf this summer and the A/C is not working.

- Got home from a float trip to East Tennessee and the refrigera-

tor is leaking.

- Got home from an Arkansas trout trip and the computer has crashed. AND the dryer is busted.

- Got home from a dove hunt and there is an electrical problem in the main breaker.

- Got home from a small-mouth trip on the New River and the light switch in the bathroom is defunct.

- The tv goes out at the mountain house while I'm out fishing in the next county.

Somebody explain this phenomenon to me!!!

I was tying flies the other night and turned around to answer an email. When I returned to my desk, the rooster neck that I was tying with had disappeared. Carol found it blown the heck up all over the bathroom floor, feathers everywhere, and 'Little' cat tearing down the hall with feathers hanging out both sides of her mouth.

Some amazing news...I get home from a fishing trip and nothing is broken! NO BULL! I guess that I just must be living right. Good luck just follows guys like me that are models for clean living. The magazine "Nutritional Living" called yesterday to ask me about being a poster boy for their publication. Since I obviously fit this image, I'll probably accept their offer.

(continued in next issue)



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

May 2008

Regular Meeting

May 13th, Gander Mountain. 6:30, Cem McConell will give a presentation on for Casting for Recovery.

FFF SE Conclave

May 29th to May 31st, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain GA

Helton Creek Trip

End of Delayed Harvest trip to Helton Creek on May 31st, sign up sheet on CFFC forum. www.carolinaflyfishingclub.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=697

June 2008

Regular Meeting

June 10th, Gander Mountain, 6:30 PM Jacob Rash, NCWR biologist. Speaking about the tail waters of Lake James.

Smallie's on the New River

June 21st, Wade or float trip on New River meeting at Riverside Canoe. More information on the forum. <http://carolinaflyfishingclub.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=698>

What Do The Members Want Programs and Outings

We are working on some ideas for programs and outings and want to hear what you the members would like to see the club doing in the coming year.

Email the "Prez"
president@carolinaflyfishingclub.org

Or

Post your idea on the forum!

Flashdancer Tutorial by Jule McDowell ("Streamer")

Flashdancer Tutorial

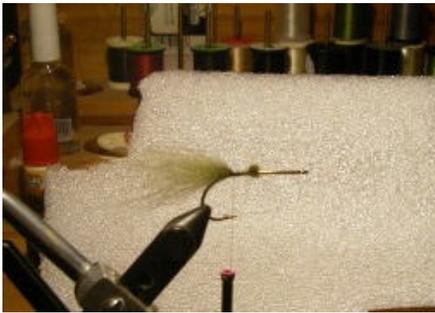
Hook: Mustad #3366, size 4
 Thread: Danville 6/0, gray
 Tail: Arctic Fox, Olive. I also use marabou. Add flash if you want. I generally don't.
 Body: Chenille, black w/green flash in it. Crystal chenille if you like.
 Wing: Flashabou, Gold, about 20 strands. This is the best flash to use because of its movement in the water.
 Collar and head: Spun deer hair. Head is trimmed like a big muddler head, but flat on the bottom.



Take a small cleaned bundle of deer hair and, holding it in place, take three tight wraps in the same spot. Hold back the flared (not spun) hair, wiggle the thread through to the front, take two thread wraps, and add 2 half hitches right there.



Add enough bunches to fill the shank, packing the hair back as you go. This does not have to be pressured like a spun-hair bass bug. Pack it more like a muddler. I've put 4 bundles of hair on here, plus a small bundle of white for the face.



Tie in the tail, about 1 hook length.



Cut and clean a pencil-sized bundle of hair, place it at a 45 deg. angle to the shank, take two soft loops on top of each other. Take a third loop, but this time, as you pass the loop over the hair bundle, pull the thread right at your belly button with more tension this time, and let go of the hair. It'll spin around the shank. Take two more wraps over the same spot, pull the hair back, do the same as you did for the collar.



Here's neat trick. Break a double edged razor blade down the center VERY CAREFULLY! Take a half blade and cut straight down the bottom of the shank, just ABOVE the thread wraps. The hair will fly off the razor, and you'll end up with a bottom that looks like this:



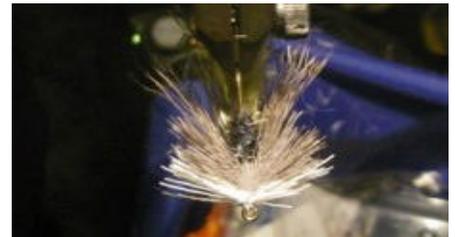
Wrap the body to about 60% shank length.



Wrap about 10 strands of flashabou around the thread, and pinch it. It should not be evened up. Take the bobbin and the flash (at the same time) to a spot directly above the shank, slide the flash down to the shank, right on top.
 Easy, huh? Now take a few snug wraps over the flash to secure it. Leave it long for now.



It'll end up like this:



Bend the razor blade like this, and.....



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“What’s Been Happening”

(continued from page 4)



.....start your first trim like this. Just push the blade back and make sure you're holding the hair collar (tips) in your left hand so you don't cut them off. Like this:



This is what it looks like after the first trim.



Trim the extra hair with your scissors, a little at a time, until you get the hair to look like this. And if you want to add eyes, it finally looks like this. Thanks for looking. Peace, y'all. Streamer

“What’s Been Happening”

March and April Meetings:

The March meeting featured Capt. Eric Thomas from Bayport, Florida and after the meeting I think everyone was tying some Tarpon flies. While we sit here in the middle of some great cold and warm water fisheries, remember it isn't that far to Florida and the salt.

The April meeting featured Roger Lowe who gave us some great ideas on how to tie CDC caddis and also was very free with tips and good places to visit the Smokie's. While Roger was talking about places to fish I was amazed at how fast some of the members could take notes!

Thanks to both of these fine gentlemen for taking time to put on these presentations.

AEG Film Tour, Charlotte

The film tour was a real success and the films were fantastic from what everyone told us. The turnout was excellent and thanks to Jack and his team of helpers everything went off like clockwork.

Deep Creek Trip

What can you say when the trip just gets better each year. While it did rain some while we were there it didn't keep those hungry fish on the Nanty from bending a few rods.



Although we missed Herb's great cooking and Jack making the coffee this year. Thanks to all that pitched in and made sure that we still ate like kings.

Josh giving lessons on tying, Peter's red wollybugger, Carla's fish getting bigger with each telling. Calling Jack to harass him about not being there to make coffee are some of the things that we will all remember.



And telling Puddlejockey to “Set The %\$@# Hook”



And did you see where he stocking truck went?



Articles from our Members:

Theft Protection for Fishermen

By Richard Griggs

Theft is a lurking problem for fishermen. It's worth taking a few precautions, to reduce the possibility of becoming a victim

If you're a regular to east Tennessee, you know theft is a problem there. Quite a few folks have had their vehicles stolen, or had gear taken from inside their cars. Most recently, one customer had his truck stolen in mid-Jan, along with some substantial personal property. The vehicle was parked in a parking lot, and he and a friend were only 150 yards away, in plain view, but focused on fishing. The alarm did not go off and the vehicle was driven away. That's an example of how easy, and quick, it can be.

Others have had cars broken into on Whitetop Laurel in Virginia; off highway 181 near Morganton; in the Wilson Creek area; other wilderness areas and even in their downtowns and home driveways. The precautions to take are annoying but obvious.

If you don't want to lose it, don't leave it in your car. Sometimes that's not practical, so making sure it's out of sight might help. Perhaps installing a metal locker or equipment box in your vehicle will offer some additional security against casual, amateur thieves.

Take your wallet with you. If you're worried about it getting wet, put it in a zip lock bag, or two. It's easier to dry it out than notify credit card companies, get new licenses etc., and you should have ID on you...

Carry your cell phone with you. Even though it may not get a signal where you're fishing, you may be able to use it after walking...if your vehicle is gone or the contents stolen.

If you're carrying a handgun for protection, carry it. Don't leave it in the car for a thief to steal, or use against you. If fishing in a national park, or perhaps a state park, firearms are prohibited. But, a national forest is managed by a different federal agency

and the rules are different. Educate yourself; know the law and know the differences.

There are a wide array of theft prevention devices that can be installed on your vehicle. On older cars, remove the coil wire and carry it with you. But, those devices and techniques don't protect against vandalism or theft of contents.

Consider using, or buying, an older, beat up vehicle as your fishing transportation. Otherwise, you may want to get your vehicle really dirty and muddy; add a couple of stick-on bullet holes to the glass; and put some "Protected by Smith & Wesson" decals on it...just to make it less attractive.

It's important to carry some backup tackle with you. But, it doesn't have to be expensive. An inexpensive rod and reel can save a trip. Or consider a \$45-99 rod and \$39 reel. The loss of a cheap outfit doesn't sting nearly as bad...

Consider these and other options. Then do what works best for you. Otherwise, a good day of fishing may end on a very sour note.

Casting Basics

Five Essential Principals to a Good Cast!

By Jack Cummings
Certified FFF Casting Instructor

1. ***You must pause and vary the duration of the pause between the forward and back cast according to the length of line out past the rod tip.***

When false casting, it is very important to allow the line to straighten before proceeding with the casting stroke in the opposite direction. The pause will lengthen as the amount of line being carried lengthens. It is sometimes good to look over your shoulder to watch the back cast to assure the line is extended. Eventually you may find you can time the pause on the back cast using the duration of the pause on the forward cast as a benchmark. You might also find you can feel the rod load on the back cast which will signal when to begin the forward cast.

2. ***Slack line should be kept to an absolute minimum.***

The line should be anchored either by clamping it to the rod with the casting hand or by holding it with the other (line) hand. If the line is not anchored it will slide and prevent the line from loading the rod, thus preventing an efficient cast. Additional causes of slack line are too much overhang between the rod tip and the water (prevent this by starting the cast with the rod tip close to the water), wind, moving water and poor timing of the pause mentioned in the first principal. Stripping the line until the tip of the fly line moves, goes a long way in minimizing slack.

3. ***Move the rod tip in a straight line path when casting.***

The line follows the path the rod tip makes. If the rod tip swings in a convex, windshield wiper-like arc the line will take on a wide, inefficient (open) loop in flight. If you dip your elbow in mid-flight or apply too much power too soon in the stroke a concave tip path might result. This concave path often results in a tailing loop and "wind knots". One aid in achieving a straight-line path is to aim the forward cast directly at the target and the back cast directly opposite the target.

4. ***You must vary the length of the casting stroke with the length of line out past the rod tip.***

Short cast, short stroke. Long cast, long stroke.

The proper stroke length for the amount of line out will go far in eliminating slack and other problems.

5. ***The correct amount of power must be applied at the proper time in the cast.***

It is best to apply power by starting the cast slowly and accelerating to a crisp stop. The energy should be applied when the rod is past perpendicular to the target. The closer you can create maximum acceleration at the end of the cast, the tighter and more efficient the loop. It is the stop that makes the line move!

The above principals were developed by many of the countries finest fly casters and are available in a book published by the Federation of Fly Fishers titled: The Essentials of Fly Casting.

www.fedflyfishers.org/