



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Compton Park Recreation Center, Tampa Palms (See below for Directions)

Invited Speaker

Capt. Dave Chouinard

Capt. Dave Chouinard has owned The Fly Hatch, Inc since 1993. His first fly fishing store, The Fly Hatch, opened in 1993 in New Jersey and grew to be one of the largest fly shops in the country. In the fall of 2008, the company moved to Tampa, Florida and opened their new store, The Tampa Angler. Dave is now a proud full time resident in the Tampa area and he is actively working and teaching in his new store on Hillsborough Ave in Tampa. Dave is a published FFF certified casting instructor and teaches with both left and right hands. He also is a contract Umpqua fly tier and fly designer. Dave is a USCG certified captain and has been guiding happy anglers for over 12 years.

Dave's presentation will be called "Fly Fishing Tips and Tricks." This presentation will cover many helpful tips that any fly fisherman could benefit from. It will cover equipment tips, fishing tips, boating tips, fishing etiquette, travel tips and knots.

Featured Fly Tyer

Robert Fischer

Robert Fischer began fly fishing when 9 years old off the seawall in Miami and in the Keys for barracuda and snappers. He got serious about fly fishing after meeting Rick Redd through the FCA, and later helped start the first fly club in the area with Rick, Jim Stewart and Jack O'connell. Robert has caught 66 different species on fly so far, including a legal redbfish and trout on 2# tippet. This year he hopes to catch a legal snook on 2# test. His favorite fish on fly: bonefish, followed closely by dolphin.

Robert jokes: "I've spent a great deal of my life fishing and the rest of it I kind of wasted on a career, family and the search for enlightenment." No wonder his name is Fischer!

The fly he will tie is a Jim Stewart brim and speck fly for subsurface and moving water.

If you ordered a club shirt at our May meeting, you should plan to pick it up at the June meeting.

Directions to Our Meetings: From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left onto Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. **From I-275**---Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park

MAY 2009 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to June. Man, where has this year gone? Half the year has flown by!

Well I want to give a Big Thanks to **John Perry** our speaker for last month. He gave us a really great talk about fishing and his fishing camp in Alaska, Angler's Alibi.

Thanks also to **Nick Angelo**, our designated Fly Tyer for May. Instructions for tying Nick's rabbit strip tarpon fly can be found on page 8, below.


On May 30th **Steve Parker** with the help of some club members, put on a Casting Clinic at the Compton Park Recreation Center. I want to thank everyone who helped out and all of the people who came to the clinic. Steve does a Great job teaching and casting, The club sponsors two clinics each year, so plan to attend when we have them,

If you can make it, sign up for the June 13 outing at a member's lake cottage in Odessa. It will be a fun outing doing some fresh water fishing for Bass & Pan Fish. Hope you can join us.

Finally, we want to extend a warm welcome to **Ted Hagaman**, who has agreed to join our Board of Directors. If you are interested in the board, or would like to sit in on a meeting, contact any board member.

See you at the Club Meeting.....

Tight Lines,

Neil Sperling 

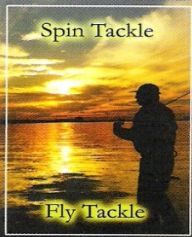
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at La Teresita restaurant, 3246 Columbus Dr.

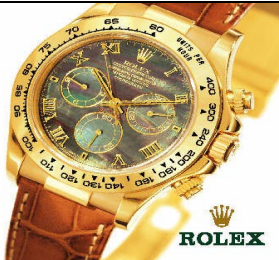
NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com



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TBFFC EVENTS

2009 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for all of 2009: June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

PICK UP CLUB SHIRTS IN JUNE

If you ordered a club shirt at the May meeting, it should be available for pickup at the June meeting. However, the shirts had not arrived as of May 26, 2009.

MAY CASTING CLINIC

Note: This event will be held before our June meeting, but many of you will receive this notice before May 30, so can still sign up by calling Steve Parker at 813-287-5583

WHEN: Sat. May 30, 2009, 9:00 AM until 2:00 pm

WHERE: Compton Park Recreation Center

LED BY: Steve Parker

The clinic will cover the following:

- **One-on-one** and group casting lessons/assistance designed to upgrade your skills.
- **Casting** styles and Casting physics, **Rod selection** (flex type based on style), **Fly lines**- types available and their application.
- **Special Tips:** Steve is going to pull together all of the tips that he has learned over the last 30+ years of fly fishing. This will be an update of his popular September 2007 tip list.
- The prerequisite for this class is that the attendees have basic knowledge of equipment, terms used in fly fishing and the ability to cast and load the rod. They should bring their own equipment.
- **Fly tying basics and tips** may be presented, depending on available time and attendee interest.
- **Lunch** will be served

JUNE LAKE OUTING AT JOHN MILLNS

When: Sat. JUNE 13, 2009, 8:30 AM until 2:00

Where: John Millns' lakefront cottage in Odessa

What: Come and try a bit of fresh water fishing on a private lake.

What Else: Lunch will be served.

This will be a rare opportunity to fish on private waters with very low fishing pressure and naïve fish. The outing has been very popular in the past. Members have enjoyed good fishing, camaraderie, food, and a few laughs.

Sign up at the June meeting.

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

- July outing in Ocoala to catch the fabled Australian Barramundi right here in FL. We will need 11 to sign up – fee of \$140 includes lunch.

- A day with Bruce Richards (of 3M Scientific Anglers) Joint with Suncoast Club. Date not set yet.

ADVERTISE YOUR HAND-ME-DOWNS HERE

If you have a fly fishing device or other item that you would like to sell to a fellow member, Contact Dick Miekka at: dmiekka@cs.com with particulars. If there is room, we will list it here.

BILL JACKSON'S EVENTS OF INTEREST

Call (727) 576-4169 for all items listed below.

Fly casting clinics each Saturday at 10 AM

Fly Tying Clinics; 6:30 PM every Monday for beginners

and every Wednesday for advanced tiers.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Walter Fuller Recreation Center, 7883 26th Ave. N., St. Pete.

MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com

NOTE: Newer Location for MCFF Club meetings - **Twin Lakes Park**. The entrance to Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota is located on Clark Road, just 1/2 mile east of I-75, on the south (right) side of the road. Contact website above for details and directions.

			
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TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 12

Another Recipe and a Casting Tip from Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers

“White Trash” Snack by Pat Saviano

Ingredients:

- 1 Package Almond Bark (1-1/2#)
- 1 Can Cocktail Peanuts (12 oz)
- 3 Cups Golden Graham Cereal
- 2 Cups Mini Pretzels
- 1 Cup Pecans (Optional)

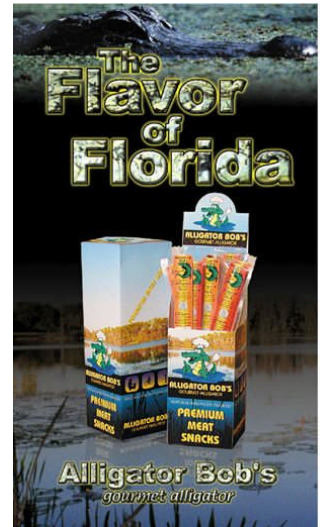
Preparation:

1. Mix all ingredients except Almond Bark in deep metal pan.
2. Melt Almond Bark in microwave (be sure all is melted) or in a double boiler.
3. Pour over dry mixture and keep stirring until all cereal and nuts are coated.
4. Pour out on wax paper and spread to get cool. You can put in refrigerator to cool. Once cool – about 4 hours, breakup into chunks and serve. Can be frozen in airtight container.

Casting Tip (reprinted from MCFF newsletter 2-09)

Are you spooking fish, getting tired, and wasting time? There could be several reasons but one is too many false casts. Many anglers spend more time with their fly in the air than in the water. False casting is essential for a number of reasons but many of us over-do it. We take too much time extending line, adjusting stroke, rod arc, power application, and trajectory, trying for the perfect 'load'. By the time we're ready to put the fly in the water we've lost sight of the fish, or the fish or boat has moved too far or the angle has worsened or the fish has been alerted by the line or reflection of the sun off the line. You'll do much better in many respects if you learn to present the fly with no more than three false casts taking no more than 5 seconds. To reach that goal, consider the following: Don't strip the fly all the way back on the retrieve. Leave as much line on the water as conditions permit. You'll consequently need less false casts to extend line on the next presentation. Learn and practice shooting line on both the forward and back cast. Recall -- shoot line after the rod has stopped in each direction -- stop the rod - let the line go (through an O-ring formed by the thumb and index finger of the line hand). If you let go to shoot line before the rod stop you'll inadvertently unload the rod too soon and kill the cast; if you let go long after the stop, you won't get a good long shoot. Keep your eye on the fish during false casting and observe the line loop coming into view as it unrolls toward the fish on the forward cast....adjusting your power application, rod arc, stroke length, and trajectory based on what you see unrolling out front. Drop that fly no later than on the fourth forward stroke or, better yet, on the third.

Dusty Sprague 🌅



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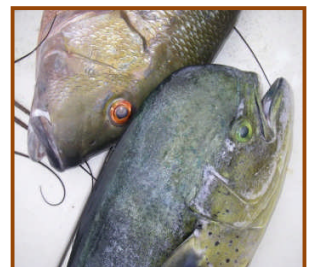
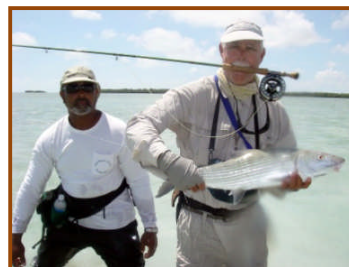
Member Photos, June 09

**No Two Alike!**

That goes for the fly fishers as well as the fish. Denise Bruner caught a "gator" seatrout while fishing with Capt. Bryon Chamberlin in early May.

Our Atlanta member, Wally Ziprik, managed to break a 9-wt Temple Fork TiCr landing the 25 lb Tennessee carp he displays in upper right. Now he is going to find out how good Temple Fork's \$25 warranty is. Some say the carp is an edible fish, others say the flavor can be described by rearranging the letters in its name.

Bryon Chamberlin, the third member of this diverse triad caught this magnificent 21 lb permit during 3 days of hard fishing in 25 to 35 mph winds during late April off Islamorada.



Continuing our "no two alike" theme, check out the TBFFC members arriving at Andros Island, late May. Left to right are **Walt Durkin, Robert Fischer, Frank Rhodes, Lance Pocock, Nick Colantonio, and Leigh West.**

Frank's bonefish (center above) weighed 12-13 lbs, and was caught on a size 8 fly! Also pictured are a mutton snapper and a mahi-mahi, part of their diverse catch.

A Trout Fisherman is Born

By Ed Bang

Reprinted from the New York State Conservationist, April 2009

As a young child in the Bronx during the early 1930s, outdoor recreation was often limited to playing in the streets. Though trout fishing in the Catskills was becoming all the rage among well-to-do sportsmen from New York City, fishing was not something I thought about, let alone tried. But that changed when I began to spend holidays and summers at my grandparents' 48-acre farm in East Chatham.

Nestled in the Taconic foothills, the farm was the perfect playground for a curious boy. I soon discovered and explored just about every brook, stream or rivulet within walking distance of the house. The waters were full of horned dace (creek chub), a forage fish that rarely exceeds six inches in length. You can imagine the thrill I had as an eight-year-old boy yanking three- to four-inch fish out of the brook after spending hours on my belly, peering at the fish through gaps in the rough, wooden timbers of the wagon bridge that spanned the stream. My dear, patient Grandma always rolled her eyes when I triumphantly presented the catch of the day.

I often had fishing buddies, assorted cousins or friends from the city that came up to enjoy the fresh air. For fishing gear, we made our own out of materials found on the land. Our fishing poles consisted of the straightest six-foot-long wild cherry saplings that Grandpa could find. Using his handy (and very sharp) pocketknife, Grandpa would transform them into things of beauty.

Line for the rods was another matter. Monofilament had yet to be discovered, so we'd use the least bulky of Grandma's kitchen string. Thank the Lord for snelled hooks, tied to eight or nine inches of line, which were readily available at Slattery's General Store.

Grandpa greatly influenced my early attempts at fishing. He cautioned that a careful approach to the brook was best, but in our haste to be first to the bridge, we would tread too firmly, simply to be rewarded by a V-shaped wake heading for the nearest cover. Only after harnessing our childish enthusiasm and creeping the last ten or fifteen feet, were we able to grab glimpses of the true trophies in the stream, the wily and elusive brook trout. To catch these speckled beauties I needed to update my homemade equipment. Though it was nearly 70 years ago, I clearly remember purchasing that first fly rod—a three piece split-bamboo rod that cost twelve dollars, a princely sum to a child in those days. A Pflueger Progress fly reel, some oiled fly line, an aluminum leader box, and some catgut leaders completed the basic outfit. Now I was ready to do some serious fishing.

While I enjoyed fishing with my cousins and friends, most were not as enthusiastic as I was about the sport. Enter Charlie Morris, son of the new owner of nearby Tinger Farm. The two of us spent hours visiting the many local spring-fed brooks known to contain native brook trout. Our favorite was Tinger's

Brook, which housed decent-sized brookies. I can't tell you how many times we fished together and caught nothing, but then came the day when the dry spell was broken and I became a lifelong trout fishing addict.

The day started out like every other fishing day. With rods already strung and hooks carefully hidden by fat garden worms, Charlie and I carefully walked the stream banks, dropping our baits into any place that looked deep enough to hold trout. At first we had no luck, but then we noticed a small, almost hidden runoff to the right of the main channel. Ten feet upstream was a circular pool, ten or eleven feet across, and ringed with watercress. The water was crystal clear. With no more anticipation than I'd had the previous ten times that day, I lowered a worm into the middle of the pool. As soon as the worm disappeared below the water's surface, a mighty brook trout sped out from the shelter of the watercress, seized the baited hook, and immediately tried to regain the weedy den from which he'd come. A reflexive yank on the rod, and I had the first of my trout treasures flipping on the bank.

Measuring the fish to make sure it was legal, Charlie and I couldn't help but admire the light-blue-surrounded red spots on the sides of our quarry. It was a special moment, made even better by the anticipation of a fine fish dinner.

Funny how I can't remember as vividly the landing of my second, third and fourth trout, but I know that the thrill never lessened. With each outing, I became more adept at approaching the brook, and more proficient at catching fish. This led to many multi-fish days, and one of my first lessons in conservation.

Arriving home one early afternoon with four or five fish on an improvised stringer, Grandpa asked if I'd left any fish in the stream. You see, in the mid-1930s, the idea of leaving a few for the next time wasn't really thought about, and an even harder concept for a kid to embrace after spending so much time and effort to catch the fish in the first place. But the question made me stop and think and soon I found myself releasing my catch more often than not.

When I was in high school, I caught my first really big trout, a sixteen-inch rainbow. Mike Tinger was nearby with his camera to capture me with my trophy. While I've caught and recorded my share of trophies since then, Mike's picture is still one of my favorites because it reminds me of how I got hooked on fishing, and developed a lifelong interest in conservation 🐟 .

An avid outdoorsman, 82-year-old Ed Bang spent many years fishing and hunting on the acreage he and wife Jeri owned in Orange County. Ed continues to enjoy trout fishing, setting aside time to throw a line in Beer Kill and Sandberg creeks during his yearly northern visit from Florida.

Ed. Note: We printed a pre-publication version of this article in an earlier newsletter, but thought you would like to read the final one.

What Length Fly Rod?

By Capt. Pat Damico,
FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor
(Reprinted from the Capmel.com web site)



This question always had a standard answer when it came to selecting a saltwater fly rod. Nine feet, everyone would agree. For most of our Florida coastal inshore fishing, an eight weight was the recommended line size.

Has this concept changed? What are some of the factors that have influenced this decision? Rod and line designs have improved considerably making our selection making process daunting. When I first started fly fishing many years ago, the selection of a fly line was simple. Level, double taper and weight forward lines were made by a few line manufactures with several variations of each.

Saltwater fly fishing was being approached by only a determined cadre who were trying to take their trout and bass knowledge from freshwater into the salty unknown.

Materials for lines were unreliable and not clearly understood, tapers of both lines and rods were being developed with mostly a hit and miss result. The quest for better materials continued to evolve and today we are overwhelmed by the vast variety of choices available. Scientific Anglers alone manufacturers more than 1500 different fly lines! Rod selection has become a difficult task. A dealer will usually point you to their favorites, but is this really best for your needs? Relationship with a good fly shop has never been more critical because you need guidance and frequently some hand holding to get the desired result. Making sure your outfit is balanced is necessary to get peak performance. Casting help is often needed to diagnose subtle needs in your style and make corrections to maximize performance. I encourage clients to bring their own gear because they frequently have good rods and reels, but lack a proper line for their task.

Fly rods for the salt come in lengths from seven and a half feet to ten feet. If we include two handed spey type rods the length continues. We will concentrate here on single handed rods.

Why would we want a ten foot rod? They do cast further with less effort. However some of the reasons I hear are a little different. Paddle fisherman, float tube enthusiasts and wade fisherman often buy longer rods because their back cast hits the water behind them and their solution is that a longer rod will keep the line higher off the water. Anyone who has watched great casters like Lefty Kreh and Ed Jaworoski give casting demonstrations is often treated to casts with the tip section of a nine foot rod casting the whole fly line from a seated position on the floor. Could it be that some casting lessons will correct the problem?

I do use a canoe and kayak, especially in the winter, and find them the hot ticket for getting back into some otherwise inaccessible water. Besides fishing from the craft, I either leave

it to fish or pull it along with a line tied to my waist. Much of my casting is at relatively short ranges, but sufficient backbone is needed to cast saltwater flies into deep pockets and undercut areas where reds, snook and small tarpon like to hangout. Once the hook is set, the rod must work to get the predator away from its structure laden home. This fishing is very much like the type fishing I have done in small streams and rivers in the northeast pursuing smallmouth bass and trout. Overhanging trees and undercut banks are the frequent safe havens for many freshwater species. Rods as short as six feet are often used and really work to give superior accuracy at relatively short distances. Think of some of the places you fish here where the situation is similar. Transporting a long rod in a canoe or kayak is very difficult when trying to go in and around mangroves and other obstacles that keep our hidden honey holes pristine.

What choices do we have for shorter rods suited to the saltwater task? Within the last couple of years several companies have responded to anglers needs. A discussion with Rick Pope of Temple Fork Outfitters about shorter rods with backbone and saltwater friendly hardware was later fulfilled with one of my favorites. A TiCr X, 4 piece, 7'6" eight weight has been my constant companion when paddle fishing. I have caught some baby tarpon up to twenty pounds with this rod in very narrow canal systems that would have been extremely difficult to fish with a longer rod. The same rod is available in a six weight, for lighter work. Their Mini-mag 8, 8-10 weight is hot off the design board. I have one ordered and am anxious to compare it with the TiCr X.

Sage has a recent entry, their Bass 7'11" series. Rated for a 230 grain sinking line, this will work well with a nine weight floater. I have cast this rod and it is a small cannon. Redington's Predator series has a 7'10" 6-8 weight or a 8'3" 9-10 weight that are very impressive as well as cost effective.

Match these with a line designed to load the rod quickly and you will have an edge on some of the best technology designed to fill your needs. Successful fly fishermen must think out of the box. The next time you visit your local fly shop, ask about these wonderful additions to our armamentarium. You will see that the industry has found some great answers to our needs. 🍷

BE A HERO – HELP THE SCOUTS

Good Morning: About two years ago, I was on staff for a Powderhorn at Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation. One of our activities was to learn about fly-fishing. At that time I thought, "Cool, the kids would have fun with this." Now I am Camp Director of Flaming Arrow and I want to add this activity to the camp. Looking at the MB requirements, I think we could complete all but the last where the scout has to catch a fish, clean it, and cook it. Our fish pond is simply catch and release. I am open to suggestions.

During Powderhorn, the instructors were also Scouters. I would like to give them the opportunity to teach the youth, but it could be any fly-fishing enthusiast. The dates for camp are: June 22-26, June 29-July 3, July 13-17, and July 20-24. If anyone is interested, I can email or mail the Fly Fishing Merit Badge requirements.

Thank for your consideration.

Kim Jones, Camp Director

Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation 813 334-7819

FLY OF THE MONTH

Rabbit Strip Tarpon Fly

As Tied by Nick Angelo



This is a simple and effective tarpon fly to tie. I use the lead wire to get the fly down to the fish's level. Dark colors seem to work well with low light conditions. I like to use it first thing in the morning while casting to rolling fish.

Materials

Hook: Owner Aki hooks size 3/0

Thread: black flat waxed nylon

Tail: mag cut rabbit strip, black, supported by 20# mason mono

Body: cross cut rabbit strip, red, over .020 lead wire

Tying Instructions

1. Attach the thread near the bend of the hook.
2. Tie in a 3 inch piece of black mag cut rabbit strip.
3. Take 2 inch piece of the 20# mono and fold in half. Place the folded mono under the rabbit strip and tie it on the shank, the purpose of the mono is to keep the rabbit from fouling around the hook. Have the folded side of the mono sticking out about an inch from the bend of the hook.
4. Tie in a 3 inch piece of the lead wire and wrap it around the shank. Go forward with the lead about 1/4 of an inch.
5. Tie in about a 2 inch piece of the cross cut red rabbit strip and palmer it forward. Make sure to cover the lead with the rabbit and try to form a nice "cone" shaped head.
6. Finish off the taper with the thread, whip finish, and apply some head cement*.

* A great head cement that I like to use is Sally Hansen Hard as Nails. You can find it at your local CVS or Walgreens. I always get a few strange looks from the clerk when I check out with a six pack of beer and a few bottles of Sally Hansen. But it works great!

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

In early May Capt Rick Grasset reported the trout action was good as was the snook bite. Fly fisher Pat Campbell from Canada caught more than a dozen snook on a 6-weight rod using a Grasset's snook minnow and epoxy shrimp fly patterns on intermediate sink tip fly line. Snook caught were up to 26" and all were released.

Our own Denise Bruner caught snook in Lemon Bay and in Strump Pass on her typical Clouser. She saw redfish but they were not interested in eating.

With all the rain for the last few days I went on the golf course with a 4 weight fly rod and enjoyed catching bass, blue gills and speckled perch. All were caught on Jeff's mini Clouser.

The outlook for June favors Tarpon along the beaches. Reds and Trout should be on shallow flats early in the morning. Cobia and Tripletails are also a good fish to target.

Tight Lines

Bob 

Rigaulin@yahoo.com

813-782-8605 home

813-293-6561 cell

NOTICE:

WE ARE PUTTING A FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE ACA (Am Casting Assoc) TOGETHER.

PLEASE NOTIFY ANY INTERESTED PARTIES AND HAVE THEM CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

WALT HOOVER - hoover@ccs.fau.edu

DUSTY SPRAGUE - dsprague01@comcast.net

CAPT. JOHN HAND - tomatoesjh@yahoo.com

THANK YOU,

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- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
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