



Florida Fly Fishing
Association
Newsletter
May 15, 2023



I completed my first fly rod build this month. It's a 7'6", 3wt for my trip to North Carolina later this month. And, thanks to John Grasta, I'll probably build a spey or switch rod next. I'm sharing this (1) to see if anyone wants to build a few rods together and (2) to share my new philosophical perspective that many of you have already embraced regarding fly fishing.

I had a wonderful gentleman from Chuluota, FL who coached me through the whole thing with his sharp engineering mind and decades of rod building knowledge & expertise. He is a naturally gifted teacher, which reminds me of the many members of FFFA who are so willing to share what they have learned over the years. Keep giving it away!

Before beginning the process, I almost backed out thinking that building a fly rod would cost too much time and money especially when high quality production rods are accessible and relatively affordable. Then I decided that it wasn't just about getting a rod to fish with, and I learned a few things along the way. First, going through



the process of building a rod was strangely satisfying and somewhat therapeutic, not unlike tying flies. It's not for everyone but I love learning new things and I did enjoy the process. Second, I started with quality materials that felt great in the hands that built it (mine) and I can't wait to get to that little North Carolina stream with it. Third, it's not just about getting a rod to fish with. At the end of the day, it's all about sharing the journey, meeting new friends who share a common interest and the satisfaction of creating (or catching) something. I am finding these are cherished themes in the fly-fishing community which are not always

driven by a cost analysis or practicalities, and that's OK.

So, here's my new perspective on all things fly fishing. I've decided that being too pragmatic about fly fishing, fly rod building, and fly tying just takes all the fun out of it. So, I will continue to indulge and may even build a few rods to give away. Let me know if you want to build one too.

Keith

Trolling Motor Use

Does it alarm fish, well "Yes and No". If used properly, the chances of fish catching ability increase. For instance, when fishing a shoreline off the main bank of an island, edges of flats or any type of structure, all noise or movement pushing waves of water over the area you are casting must cease. Set the trolling motor to a desired speed 1 or 2 miles an hour and never change the speed. Keep it the same speed until you stop fishing. Never turn the motor off after spotting a fish. Fish will become alarmed with a sudden change in their surroundings. Also, while looking for fish, do not change speeds with the trolling motor. Any change in their environment will put them into a spooky mode.

Stealth Mode Works! Give this a try. It works for many of us.

Bob Clouser

Bio Lab Road Cleanup

The quarterly cleanup of a mile section of Bio Lab Road in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is scheduled for Saturday, March 20. Additional volunteers are needed to complete the cleanup in the morning before the heat of the day sets in. If you can help with this task, please contact Don Foor at (317) 850-9185 or email at dlfoor@att.net for more information.

Everglades Fishing Outing

On Thursday, April 27, a group of 8 traveled to Holiday Park with high hopes of catching scores of Peacock Bass and other species of fish from the canals that lace through the Everglades. The water level in the Everglades remained high from recent heavy rainfalls and provided additional habitat for the fish. Peacock Bass, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and various Cichlids were caught but not up to the numbers caught at the same time last year. Fish were frequently seen following the fly but refusing to eat. Weather conditions remained good for casting flies through Saturday morning, but the storm forecast for Saturday afternoon prompted a group decision to cancel plans to stay Saturday night and fish Sunday morning. Everyone made it home safely ahead of the storm that hit West Palm hard Saturday afternoon.

Don Foor

Everglades Pictures



Steve Lo with a Peacock Bass



Don Foor with a Cichlid



John Bartoletti with an Oscar



Don, Steve, Rainy, Scott, John, Amir, Jim and Alf having dinner at Longhorn Steakhouse



This is the Weedless Bass Fly that John Grasta will teach on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm at Kay's Barbecue. Come early and eat with the group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 16, 2023, Fly Tying 7:00 pm at Kay's Barbecue
- May 20, 2023, 8:00 am Bio Lab Road Cleanup at MINWR Visitors Center
- May 23, 2023, Monthly 7:00 pm Meeting at Kay's Barbecue. Program details will be forthcoming in a separate email.

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