

Flatland Fly Fishers

Wichita, Kansas

www.flatlandflyfishers.org

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Presidents Line

May, 2008

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Anyone who would like to share pictures or articles for the Newsletter should contact the editors at:
07editor@flatlandflyfishers.org

The board of directors who are constantly coming up with new ideas and programs to help you become better fly fishermen are amazing. They have been very busy planning events and making changes, all hopefully which will be beneficial to you and your club.

Our new web site should be up by the time you read this. It is a very user friendly site and looks great too. Thanks to Songbin and Kevin for the hard work it took to develop this site. You should find easier navigation and quick links to your favorite articles and tips the norm throughout the site. Please take a look at it and let us know what you think.

The news letter may take on a different look as well. Not in the layout but in the content. We are planning to put more informative and education type articles in it due to the number of new fly fisherman that are just starting out and are new to the club. These articles will help you with tackle terminology, set up as well as casting and fishing techniques.

We are in the planning stages of some fly fishing 101 classes. We will start with a small group as a pilot, and possibly expand as we determine the amount of interest for this type of program. Look for more information in the next couple of months as we hammer out the details.

Fly fishing clinics? Maybe we are still talking about this.

The club has also successfully obtained the tax exempt status of 501 c 3 under the new name of **Flatland Fly Fishers Inc...** This allows vendors to donate items to the club and write them off for tax purposes, which should result in more items for raffles and door prizes.

Another fall banquet is in the planning stage. We are working on a date sometime in October with guest speakers, and challenging events. This should be another fun filled day of fellowship and family enjoyment. More on this as it develops.

Make sure you take advantage of the fishing events too. The Salida trip on April 26th and a bass fishing day for May 17th are scheduled.

Don't forget the work day on the Slough June 7th and soon to be announced work day for the Kanopolis seep stream.

I told you we have been busy. See you soon. Stuart



Stuart with a nice Striper

Next Meeting May 1, 7:00 P.M.



This is the third year that I have cooked the lunch for the women's fly fishing clinic. Every time I make the fish chowder I have people ask me for the recipe for it. I also get great comments and compliments on the Dutch oven deserts. So I decided to write them up so others could enjoy them in their home or for a good shore lunch

Peach cobbler – Dutch oven style

This is an old favorite. I have tried several recipes but the one I show here is the best yet because it doesn't turn out thin and too sweet. It is simple and can be whipped up anywhere. It will work with about any kind of fruit you want to use.

1 ea. 12 inch Dutch oven.

1 ¾ cup Bisquick mix

2 eggs

¾ cup sugar

¾ cup milk

½ t cinnamon

½ stick butter, melted

4 cups peaches. If you use canned sliced peaches in heavy syrup pour off most of the liquid. You may want to use the Wilderness brand peach pie fruit. If so use 2 cans.

Spray the inside of the Dutch oven with Pam. Mix the Bisquick, eggs, milk, sugar, butter and cinnamon together in a bowl. The batter should be the consistency of pancake batter. Adjust the consistency by adding more milk or Bisquick mix as required. Pour the batter into the Dutch oven. Spoon the peaches over the batter.

May 1, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers Club meeting 7 p.m.
Program Kurt & Michelle Ratzlaff "Florida Fishing"

May 8, 2008

Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Ark River Anglers

May 17, 2008

Bass Fishing at Butler County Lake
Contact Kendal Rush or Steve Webb for more information

June 5, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers Club Meeting 7 p.m.
Program will be casting instructions (weather permitting)

June 7, 2008

Slough Creek work day contact Neal Hall for more information

June 12, 2008

Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Ark River Anglers

Cover with the lid and place where you can control the amount of heat. Bake at around 400 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes until golden brown. Control the heat by the number of coals you use on the oven. I use 20 on top and 8 on the bottom. Turn the oven ½ turn every 10 minutes.

Note: For a special added surprise, sprinkle ¼ cup peach brandy over the mixture before you start baking it.

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100 Mile Fly

Steve Webb

Since the first of the year board members have had multiple discussions about increasing the value of club membership through instructional and “join in” activities. The first two ideas were the “Fly Tying for Local Waters” and “Gearing Up” programs presented at the February and March meetings. At the last board meeting everyone wanted to further incorporate these goals into the newsletter.

Over the past couple of months I have been watching a new “reality” type of fly fishing show called Dollar Wise Fly on the Versus network. The show’s premise has the host, Conway Bowman, planning and doing a three to four day fishing trip to a destination that may not be as well known as the usual fly fishing magazine and television hot spots. The shows “hook” is the trip is done on a budget, with airfare, lodging, car rental, eats, and guide fees scrounged for the best value. Taking this idea down to a much smaller scale several of us have decided to seek out nearby waters and highlight them in a monthly newsletter column. Hopefully we will be able to include some local color along with the fishing information and since the cost of gas has climbed to sky high levels recently the initial plan is to seek waters within a one hundred mile radius of Wichita.

Over the past month we have made several fishing trips to waters both public and private, targeting different species of fish, and using a range of tackle and flies trying to learn if this idea can be yield something useful. Early April found us fishing a small private pond seeking Bass and Bluegill. Cold water temps and a gusty 30 mph breeze didn’t stop these hungry fish from grabbing a slow sinking Clouser or Briminator.

The next Saturday was the date of the annual Bluegill fest at Buffalo Park. If your idea of fun is catching stunted 4” Bluegill while casting



into a stiff northerly wind then this is the event for you. Dwan cooked up an excellent lunch of Brats, Burgers, and Dogs that was much better than the mediocre fishing. Stuffed with good food but wanting a little more and better fishing we headed to Slough Creek. Late in the afternoon I was rewarded with this 18” Rainbow that more than made up for the micro Bluegill.



The saying goes “White Bass spawn when the Redbuds bloom” My third 100 mile trip of the month found me in the Cottonwood River above Marion Reservoir and while the Redbuds were definitely blooming the Whites did not seem very interested in procreation. You would think that a guy who cut out of work at noon and headed for the river would be amply rewarded by the gods with more than one fish but it was not to be. Tempted and fooled by the “real bass” again.

My last fishing trip of the month will be to Salida, Colorado hoping to hit the “Mothers Day Caddis Hatch” but there are several new spots within 100 miles waiting to be checked out in May.





Necessity Is the Mother of ...a Great Saltwater Fly Fishing Trip

Kurt Ratzlaff

Ok, so maybe the above quote isn't exactly the way you have seen it stated in other publications. However, we who read this publication can certainly understand this new twist. Please allow me to explain.

My wife is a very hard working person. She is a CPA and therefore loses most of the first five months of every calendar year to the endless requirements of the IRS. Last year I had the bright idea to give her a break in the middle of that nightmare and gave her a trip to a tropical resort for a few days. Turned out to be a great idea.

Being the nice guy that I am, I decided to repeat it again this year. Another great idea, but unfortunately my procrastination got the best of me. And to make matters worse, this trip was also going to serve as a present to her for a very special birthday. I would never tell you what birthday this was for her, but it rhymes with nifty. The travel agent said I waited too long. Probably not anything left, she said. Soon my phone calls to her were not being returned. My patience grew thin and finally I was told that we'd be hanging out with college-age spring breakers if we went during the time I had chosen. Not a chance. I hung up all my drinking trophies long ago. I pouted for a while and then decided I could find us a better trip by myself. After wasting a lot of time on the internet, I conceded that the tropics would have to wait.

Now this is where the phrase "necessity is a mother ____" (or something like that) comes in. My wife already knew I was trying to set up a trip. Travel agent failed. I failed. I CAN'T FAIL! Just like if a dry fly won't work, go to the nymph case for other options, right? So if the Caribbean is out, what else might work? After much turmoil, a brainstorm arrived. The Florida Keys. Saltwater fly fishing. Mid-February. No spring breakers. We had dreamed of such a trip, but didn't plan on doing it for several years. Why? Why not? Back to the internet! AirTran had a special on flights to Miami! Next thing I knew, it was booked. Fly and drive on Saturday, fish Sunday and Monday, goof off Tuesday, fly back Wednesday.

Our trip started with a flight from Wichita to Miami. To make that long story very short, let's just say it took a LOT longer to get to Miami than had been previously scheduled. After that torture finally ended, a rental car carried us to our base, the Lookout Lodge in Islamorada, Florida. Nice hotel. Not too fancy. Very small. Clean. In-room refrigerator. Comfy bed. All the necessities. We were well aware we needed a good night's sleep and a great breakfast to start us on our fishing adventure. But in reality, we only got about four and a half hours of sleep and I ended up running to a convenience store for breakfast, which turned out to be Hostess Fruit Pies and Little Chocolate Donuts! After that gastronomical delight, and two cups of coffee apiece, we were as ready as we were going to be.

Our guide, Paul Tejera, was recommended to us by the lady who spoke to our club several months ago about saltwater fly fishing. Paul was waiting for us at the appointed place and hour. He was very pleasant. He is outfitted by G.Loomis, so we used his fishing equipment and flies. His boat is a 16' skiff with a highly elevated platform on the back (for the guide to stand on while poling the boat searching for fish) and a smaller, shorter platform on the front for the fly fisher to stand on. Paul was excited because, due to unusually high temperatures, many fish had 'come up' long before the norm. After loading up, off we went, into the Everglades and Florida Bay. My bride and I would split time on the casting platform and it was understood that we would be releasing all fish we caught.

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Necessity Is the Mother of ...a Great Saltwater Fly Fishing Trip

Kurt Ratzlaff

Almost immediately, our incredible guide got us into...TARPON. Yes, the big game of saltwater flats fishing. Unfortunately, our guide was far better at his job than we were at fly casting. Our excuse is that we spend our winter recreation time hunting, not fishing. We hadn't touched a fly rod since September. It showed. We saw tarpon from eighty to one hundred sixty pounds. Unbelievable. Both the fish and the frustration. First big lesson: you must have a consistently long and accurate cast before you go on a guided saltwater fly-fishing trip on the flats. Nothing incredible, you know. You just need to be able to stand on a two foot by three foot platform, and with one or two backcasts be able to fulfill the guides instruction. Unfortunately, this was basically our conversation: Guide:"10:30 - 65 feet." Us: "Damn." "9:30 - 50 feet." "Damn." "You gotta do better." "Damn." "12:00 noon - 60 feet." "Damn." I finally had a one hundred twenty pound tarpon flash toward my fly, (a grizzly chartreuse tarpon streamer) but I got excited, tried to set the hook too soon, and the monster was gone.

Fortunately, our guide was wonderful, patient and a male model, so my wife was happy, I was mad, and the guide took us to a different location to fish within our ability. Then we all got happy. Paul put us into a group of sea trout, jacks and ladyfish that kept us catching fish for three hours. Not just consistently catching fish, but constantly. Nearly every cast was willingly accepted by something. We mainly caught sea trout but soon

learned to differentiate between types of fish as soon as they were on. Ladyfish immediately jump out of the water, and continue to do so until you land them. Jacks fight like maniacs. Trout combined both traits. All on the same fly - a simple white Deceiver. There were a couple strands of peacock herl on top, but they broke off somewhere in the melee. Didn't matter to the fish. We caught fish constantly for over an hour. Took a break to eat a leisurely lunch on the boat (jerky & trail mix from the convenience store) and then caught fish for



another hour and a half. Eventually, we decided one of us would use a spinning rod on one side of the boat, while the other cast flies to the other side. Doubles were the rule, rather than the exception. As long as you could come reasonably close to the underwater point where the fish were holding, something would put a smile on your face. Most of the trout we caught were in the sixteen to twenty inch range. The largest was about twenty-six inches long.

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Necessity Is the Mother of ...a Great Saltwater Fly Fishing Trip

Kurt Ratzlaff

Eventually, the fish got sore mouths and decided they had given us enough fun. On the way back, we stopped along a couple of mangrove islands and made some weak attempts at catching snook and redfish, but much like Austin Powers, we were spent. We went back to the marina/restaurant/bar where we had started and called it a day. We drove back to the hotel room, cleaned up and returned to the restaurant for dinner, cocktails and an absolutely amazing sundown. With a few exceptions, prices in Islamorada are actually comparable to Wichita, so we ate well, drank lots, and had a great evening.

The next day the tarpon did not cooperate, but I was able to catch a snook on the fly rod. It wasn't big, but it was snook! Again we used a white Deceiver. The trick on snook is to land your fly within a foot of the shoreline. The problem is the 'shoreline' is actually the roots and branches of the mangrove trees that make up the island. My lovely lady spent most of her time untangling her casts from the branches.

After a timeout for some casting lessons and practice, it was back to the trout spot. The fish were still there, but their mouths were still a little sore, and they were a bit more reluctant. We caught lots of fish, but not like the previous day.

After lunch, Paul offered to take us shark fishing. We took him up on it, but for that endeavor we used a big stout spinning rod baited with the middle portion of a ladyfish we had previously caught. The birthday girl again went first and caught a lemon shark that was approximately six feet long and one hundred fifty pounds. I was next and mine went about eight feet and two hundred pounds. Both sharks gave us epic battles and it was a real thrill to land something that big. After that experience, we returned to the bar, I mean restaurant, for another great dinner and sundown.

The next day we explored the Keys from top to bottom. At the club's upcoming May meeting we will talk about how to take a very cost effective fly-fishing trip to the Keys. Don't miss that meeting! You too can take a very reasonable trip to the Florida Keys.





Lunch recipes from the women's fly fishing clinic

Neal Hall

Fish chowder:

I used to make this for the shore lunch when the club held the Gar and White Bass fishing outing at Fall River Kansas. You can use any kind of fish that you have available. I have even used Gar in it. You should always be careful to fillet the fish and not get any bones in the chowder. They probably won't hurt you but people don't like them.

This recipe makes about 1½ gallons (6 quarts) so be sure to start with a big pot.

1 large stockpot.

About 1 pound or your selected fish. I used Tilapia and Cod in the last batch I made.

¼ cup canola oil.

1 large onion, diced.

1 ½ cup celery, diced

1-cup carrots, chopped

6 to 8 medium sized potatoes, diced

½ gallon milk

½ gallon water.

2/3 cup flour

1 or 2 bay leaves

½ t. dried thyme

½ t. black pepper

Salt to taste

Place oil in the pot and bring to med heat. Put in onion, celery, carrots and sweat them for about 5 minutes or until the onions turn translucent. Pour in about one quart water and the potatoes. Bring to a boil and cook until the potatoes are done. Some will start to fall apart. Add a quart of milk. Mix the flour with about 1 cup of water and emulsify it. Stir flour mixture into the pot. Bring to a slow boil and add the rest of the milk. Add the fish and put in the bay leaves thyme, black pepper and about 1t. salt. Cook and stir often so the potatoes won't stick to the bottom of the pot. Adjust the thickness of the chowder by adding some more of the water. Or if too thin, a little more flour and water mixture. When the fish starts to flake apart, it's done! Serves about 16 people.

Poached trout: A-la aluminum foil.

This is a great no mess way to cook trout over a charcoal or wood coal fire. Spread the coals out so they are about ½ inch apart.

1 gutted and washed trout.

Sliced lemon

Rosemary

Thyme

Salt

Place trout on a sheet of aluminum foil big enough to seal around the fish. In the body cavity of the trout sprinkle in some rosemary, thyme and salt and place in 1 or 2 slices of lemon. Roll the edges of the aluminum foil to seal it and put the package directly over the hot coals. Cook about 7 minutes for a 10-inch fish. Bigger fish will take more time.

For Sale:

- Cabela's neoprene waders size 10, \$35.00
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- Cabela's fishing vest, large, \$20.00
- Bag of fly tying tools, \$12.00
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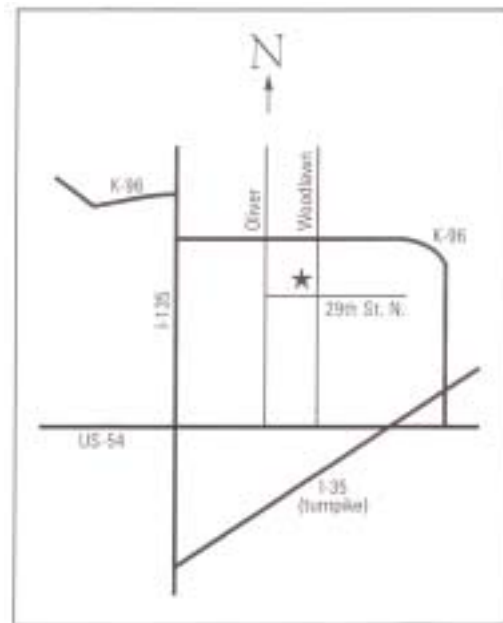
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Flatland Fly Fishers



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