



# Forward Cast

# *F o r w a r d C a s t*

## WHY DOES MY FLY LOOK LIKE A TROUT?

By: Gerald Bell

Well, it had to happen, I guess. There I was, on the trout farm at Hiamonee Plantation north of Tallahassee. After our Bradfordville presentation to the Life Long Learning group from the Tallahassee Senior Center, Reggie and I had come to the place where a club outing was scheduled so we could get the layout of the property and to try out some of the patterns we thought would be productive for the rainbow trout recently stocked in the lake.

The owner, Galt Allee, had brought in 400 pounds of Kamloop and Triploid Kamloop rainbow trout on November 19. This was Friday, the 30th, and his log registered only four other fly fishers had been to the lake this season. We were excited that the Florida Big Bend Flyfishers Club had been invited to fly fish on the lake in search of the only rainbow trout raised in Florida. It had been reported that the fish will average 1-2 pounds but some are up into double digits. We are restricted to using at least a 4wt rod with barbless hooks and releasing all healthy fish. Although we can keep one, we are encouraged to keep any that are bleeding since they will shortly die. Get them in quickly so they don't tire and leave the fish in the water as you back out the hook to release the fish unharmed.

I had tried out a green Wooly Buzzer with brown marabou tail and a red hackle and was focusing on how the fly would rise and sink in the water. The tail seemed to swim as it floated toward the bottom. I was amazed that it looked so much like the bull frog tadpoles around the banks. My technique was to throw it out and watch it come back to the bank. I had forgotten that I was actually fishing until I was shocked back to reality. The fly was coming back but it was bigger than I remembered. I thought, "Why does my fly look bigger? It looks like a . . . Oh, my gosh, it is a trout!"

We tried a lot of patterns that afternoon and found the weighted Wooly Buzzer to be the best for that afternoon. The fish, however, will tell us what they like when we get there on December 15. You don't want to miss this exciting trip.

## Websites

### Of Interest:

- **Big Bend Fishing**
- [bigbendfishing.net](http://bigbendfishing.net)
- 
- **Federation of**
- **Fly Fishers**
- [fedflyfishers.org](http://fedflyfishers.org)
- 
- **Fly Angler Online**
- [flyangleronline.com](http://flyangleronline.com)
- 
- **Flyfishing in Salt**
- [flyfishinsalt.com](http://flyfishinsalt.com)
- 
- **Forgotten Coast**
- **Kayak Anglers**
- [fcka.net](http://fcka.net)
- 
- **Jerry's Fishing Report**
- [jerrysbait.com](http://jerrysbait.com)
- 
- **North Florida**
- **Fly Fishers**
- [northfloridaflyfishers.org](http://northfloridaflyfishers.org)
- 
- **North Florida Gulf**
- **Fishing Club**
- [nfgfc.org](http://nfgfc.org)
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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Party at the Stoecklin's on December 8

**P**arty at the Stoecklin's on December 8. We plan to have a great time of fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, talking and eating at Peter and Sara's home on Lake Jackson. A separate flyer is attached with instructions. Let Peter know what food you will be bringing. We will start around 10AM and leave around 3:30PM. This promises to be a great gathering.

### Save this Date! **March 28-30, 2008**

The **Federation of Fly Fishers** will hold the "The FFF National Fly Fishing Exposition" March 28 through 30, 2008 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida. There will be over 100 vendors and national fly fishing manufacturers and their dealers. Lefty Kreh, Diana Rudolph, Bruce Richards, Jon Cave, Nick Curcione, Dave Whitlock and Oscar Felieu, plus many other notable fly fishers from around the world will demonstrate the skills you need to catch more fish. Open seminars covering fly fishing around the country, fly tying and bamboo rod building will be going on all day every day. Sign up for special workshops with the experts. How about knot tying with Lefty, saltwater fly tying with Oscar and Dave and Nick Curcione's rigging class. Don't miss Jimbo Meador's kayak class. Local experts will help you find more fish in Florida and will guide you to the best water. When you need to relax, visit the Fly Tying Theater where a dozen tyers will be demonstrating every conceivable pattern.

Attendees will also be able to view the educational and conservation programs offered by the Federation. In keeping with the Federation's policy of "All Fish, All Waters", we will feature tying and fishing programs for warm and cold water species, saltwater fishing and related subjects. Don't miss the social side, the Saturday night "Tarpon Hop" where you can eat, drink and rub elbows with fly fishers from around the globe. Oh, and dance!

The Lakeland Center's 28,262 square foot Exhibition Hall will feature two indoor casting ponds, a seminar stage and over 80 vendor booths. Attendees will be able to try out the newest rods, get instructions from the best in the business and talk to the best known experts in the fly fishing world. Special prices will be offered for multiple day attendance, hotel accommodations, theme park tickets and local nature tours.

Lakeland, Florida is centrally located between Tampa and Orlando. There is easy access to 100's of lakes, west coast and east coast saltwater fishing and the Everglades. Non anglers will be able to enjoy the many theme parks in central Florida, dozens of golf courses, super restaurants and the best beaches in the world.

Watch for the National Fly Fishing Expo web site coming soon. There you will be able to register for seminars and special events, find info on accommodations, view the programs and sign up for the Saturday night Tarpon hop dinner dance.

It all happens at the Lakeland Center in March. See you there.

# The Fish Hunter

By: Reggie Roddenberry



I want to brag on my students who are attending the Beginner's Fly Tying Classes. They are a diverse group of serious fly tiers. Each one of them have been progressing along rapidly and I am extremely proud of their individual progress. It is an honor to be teaching them what I have learned and practiced over the years about fly tying. I have always believed in the motto: "Pass it on". Now in fly tying, here is my chance!

Grasping the basic techniques in the areas of tools, materials, and tying sequences is never easy when first starting out. I'm happy to announce that this class is proceeding along on schedule even though they are facing more difficult patterns in the last few remaining

classes.

One of the minor difficulties that transpired was the extensive time involved in teaching our students the proper use of doing a "whip finish". Extra class time was needed to teach the proper use of both the Thompson and Matarelli Whip Finishers. Another difficulty resulted from only allowing two hours for teaching these students fly tying techniques. We adjusted to that little problem by adding another hour to the class instructional time frame.

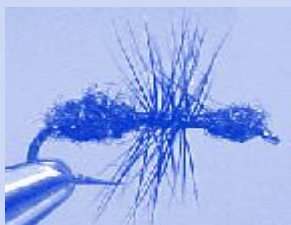
To date, we have tied the wet and dry fly versions of a *Black Ant* fresh water terrestrial pattern, the *Wooly Worm* fresh water wet fly, the *Wooly Bugger* fresh water streamer fly, the *Black & Peacock* fresh water wet fly, the *Deep Clouser Minnow* salt water wet fly, and the *Seaducer* salt water wet fly. Norm Thomas showed them how to tie a *Dahlberg Diver*. The class skipped two Thursday night sessions on November 22nd and December 6. They return for December 13 and the last class will be on Thursday, December 20th.

During December's classes Tom Logan will demonstrate the tying of the Royal Wulff fly and we will be tying a *Pheasant-tail* fresh water nymph fly, and the *Adams* fresh water dry fly. On the last class we will return to the salt water as we learn the *Tarpon* salt water wet fly pattern and the *Deceiver* pattern.

The FBBF club plans to offer an Intermediate Fly Tying Class beginning in April, 2008. I will let the students help decide what flies we learn in that class. Another Beginner's Fly Tying Class will be scheduled sometime in 2008.

I look forward to teaching anyone who wishes to learn to tie a fly. For me, it is truly a "labor of love".

RRR



The *Black Ant*, tied either wet or dry fly style with hackle fibers in the middle, is a member of the "terrestrial" family of fly patterns. It can be tied in a variety of natural colors (black, cinnamon, red & black, or brown), in hook sizes of #10 down to the tiny size #20.

## HIAMONEE PLANTATION OUTING

On Saturday, December 15, the FBBF has been invited to fish at Hiamonee Plantation for what may be Florida's only rainbow trout. On November 19, four hundred pounds of Kamloop and Triploid Kamloop rainbow trout were added to the pond and a like number will be added the middle of December. These trout will stay in the North Florida water until March at which time they will be harvested. In the meantime, Galt and Francine Allee, owners of the plantation, will allow fly fishing with barbless hooks for a fee of \$25 per day. The FBBF has been given a reduced price of \$15 per person during the time of our outing. They ask that healthy fish be returned to the water unharmed although you are allowed to keep one for the table. If the fish is bleeding, it should be kept since it will soon die even if it swims off.

Although the trout are hatchery raised, they are a challenge to catch. You will want to use at least a 4wt rod but a 7-8wt might be better so you can get the fish in quickly without tiring him out. When we recently fished in prepara-

tion for the outing, we found weighted Woolly Buggers to be productive. The water is algae-green and we were fishing in bright sunlight using dark brown or green colors but weather conditions and water conditions may change the fish's cooperative attitude. The lake is about 10-15 feet deep so you need to get the fly down toward the bottom but any fly that gets there may be just as good as the ones we tried. I even caught one on an egg pattern that was simply a piece of red yard tied on the top of the hook. We plan to have a fly tying table available if you want to "match the hatch". The club will furnish some drinks and water and have a streamside meal prepared around noon. Bring whatever snacks or special drinks you want but be sure to take all of your trash back home with you.

**DIRECTIONS:** As you are going north on Meridian Street, the property is about 5 miles past Bannerman Road. Once you pass the twin bridges, you will see yellow signs indicating a sharp left turn. Around these curves, as you go up a hill, you will see a "Hidden Driveway" sign on your right. The drive is then on the left at the green mailbox. Pull up to the gate and it will open. Bear to the left at the "Y" and the lake will be straight ahead. We will start around 7AM.

This is always a fun outing and we really appreciate the Allee's allowing us to fish in their pond. If you want to enjoy a different outing, you might consider helping with the harvest in March. They drain the pond and net the fish as they travel down toward the lower pond. The fish are then field-dressed and put on ice. When you leave your check in the mailbox by the lake, leave your address or email address and let Galt know you want to help. He will let you know when. Be sure to leave him a note about your fishing experience during the day, including how many fish you caught and kept. He enjoys reading the comments.



REGGIE'S RAINBOW ROOSTER

## Spring Creek for Winter Fly Fishing

**By:** REGGIE RODDENBERRY

So you thought it was too cold to fly fish. Did you put away those fly rods? No, bring them back out because I want to tell you how and where to go and get your fly line stretched by hungry salt water fish during the winter months.

Gerald and I have been finding Mangrove Snapper, Ladyfish, Redfish, Flounder, Trout, and Sheepshead in the Spring Creek areas. When we get tired of fishing the “boils”, we venture off into the creeks that run into the main river, and over to the oyster bars that can be found throughout the area.

My first word of advice to you boaters is to *watch the tides*. Make sure you go through those little side creeks during the first part of a falling tide or the last part of the rising tide. You don't want to get caught stranded in the creeks or out there on those shallow water flats, especially over night!

Try fishing at the mouths of all the creeks running into the main river channel. The fish stage around these points when the tide is first flushing into and out of the creeks. Other places to try are some of the deeper holes or river channel areas found by using the depth recorder. The bait fish and minnows, hence the predatory fish feeding on them, hold in these spots. An especially good time to try these deeper areas is during the low tidal flow periods.

Some of the better areas can be found around the oyster bars. Believe me, there are many bars out there in the Spring Creek bay to fish around. When you first get out there, hopefully on a falling tide, use the electric motor or push pole to quietly move around the oyster bar and shore line saw grass edges. Watch for “nervous” water or, even better, tailing redfish. When you spot either one of these, move in close and make an accurate cast with the chosen fly.

A different kind of fishing tactic calls for working quietly along inside the small creeks. Keep making repetitive casts near any of the different structure locations, such as grassy points, sub-creek mouths, coves, and fallen logs and you may be rewarded with some vicious strikes. You will never know whether it will be a hungry trout, flounder, or redfish until the fight is on— who cares!

My favorite areas are the spring creek “boils”, especially in colder weather. These are the main collection points where schools of many fish gather to keep warm in the otherwise chilly waters. There you will find Ladyfish, Mangrove Snappers, Sheepshead, Redfish, Trout, even an occasional Grouper and Black Sea Bass. All of these species have been known to show up.

Have fun!



# Florida Big Bend Flyfishers

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[www.fbbflyfishers.com](http://www.fbbflyfishers.com)



FEDERATION  
OF  
FLY FISHERS



# Forward Cast

The next meeting is:

January 21 at Beef O'Brady's Restaurant on  
Thomasville Road in Tallahassee, Florida.

The board meeting begins at 6:00PM.

The meeting begins at 7:00.

Come early to eat and visit.

*The staff of the Forward Cast and the Board of Directors wish, each and every one of you the very best the holidays have to offer. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May all of your fly fishing experiences be nice ones.*

## FBBF Officers

### Officers:

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## How to Join

Membership applications are available on the web at <http://www.fbbflyfishers.com> or by contacting the President.

Membership in FBBF consists of the following categories:

Individual Member *	\$30.00 till 12/31
Family Membership *	\$65.00
Student Membership *	\$35.00

includes FFF membership dues!

Web site graciously hosted by:



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