

FLORIDA FLYROD CLUB'S REEL NEWS

October 2009



150-D Fortenberry Rd, Merritt Island, FL 32952

floridaflyrodclub.com

OFFICERS

President	Alex Montminy	321-452-6834
Vice President/Weigh Master	Lenny Stahley	321-863-1709
Secretary/Newsletter Editor	Betty Brown	321-504-7881 749-9949 (Cell)
Treasurer	Steve Gersten	321-795-1024

NEXT MEETING

Nov 3, 2009

Kay's Real Pit Bar-B-Q
1552 Hwy 520, Cocoa

Dinner in the meeting room at 5:30 p.m. (order from menu)

Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

PLEASE DO PLAN TO COME FOR DINNER AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

The November newsletter is where you will find all the details on the party; but, for now, all you need to think about is your gift, if you choose to participate in the gift exchange. The club has an established amount of \$25 for the gift. The gift can be, but doesn't have to be, fishing related. Gifts should be wrapped, but not marked as to who they are from. For the ladies who choose to participate, you should bring a ladies gift and mark it "For Lady". At the party, you must also receive a gift marked "For Lady". Those not marked will be assumed to be for fishermen, including female fishermen who did not designate that the gift they brought be for a lady.

FISHING & WATER REPORTS:

Lake Poinsett has extremely high water levels and fish are moving just about anywhere they want to go and have left no forwarding address to the anglers. Water is still moving swiftly through Winder and Middle River and northward to SR46. Betty has not heard of anyone catching anything since mid-August.

September 19 and 20 provided strong easterly winds and high temps for both tournaments. **East Lake** had clear water and lots of pepper grass, but other vessels provided a lot of competition for the water and ramp. Lakes **Hatchineha** and **Cypress** were rather cloudy and muddy because of work in the area. **Gentry Canal** produced a lot of very small bream. There were no significant fish caught in any of the locations fished.

In spite of **Don Donoghue's** relatively low total weight on September 19, he weighed in a 16 oz. Shellcracker to take the Big Fish for the species title away from Ed Stahley. Ed had held the big Shellcracker title for several months.

Fishing appears to be tough in many places because of high water. **Don Donoghue** fished Johns Lake recently and caught two keeper bass on the east side, but commented that the dock was under water. **Don Barker** said he fished Johns Lake recently and caught only small fish, but his major concern was the broken dock which is partially under water. Because of that problem, we voted at the October meeting to move the October 17 buddy tournament from Johns Lake to Lake Poinsett. If the dock is repaired by the December tournament, we may have an opportunity to swap out Lake Poinsett for Johns Lake. We'll see how it goes.

LICENSE PLATES:

Florida Flyrod Club license plates are still available for \$5 each. See Treasurer **Steve Gersten** at one of the meetings or call to make other arrangements to get one.



ROSTER CHANGE:

Glenn McCallister's new email address is papagem1@cfl.rr.com

TOURNAMENT LADDER: See attached.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

Location: East Lake		09/19/09				
Grand Master		Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Big Fish
Stahley	Ed	2.9	9.3	0.0	12.2	Shellcracker, 16.0 oz.
Donoghue	Don	1.1	2.8	0.0	3.9	
Master		Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Big Fish
Montminy	Alex	0.0	6.5	0.0	6.5	
Barker	Don	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	
McCallister	Glenn	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	
Sportsman		Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Big Fish
Adams	Frank	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.4	
Koller	Al	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9	

Location: St. Cloud Open		9/19-20/09				
Grand Master		Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Big Fish
Stahley	Ed	2.2	10.0	0.0	12.2	
Donoghue	Don	3.2	2.1	1.8	7.1	
Stahley	Lenny	0.0	6.9	0.0	6.9	
Master		Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Big Fish
Montminy	Alex	1.2	7.0	0.0	8.2	
Sportsman		Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Big Fish
Adams	Frank	2.2	6.3	0.0	8.5	

TOURNAMENTS, UPCOMING:

10/17/09 Lake Poinsett (Buddy Tournament)
Time: 7 am – 1 pm
Weigh-in: Bourbeau Park
Weigh Master: Lenny Stahley

Buddy Tournament Rules (Amended 11/01/07):

“Buddy Tournament: A tournament where two fly fishermen fishing from one boat count the sum of their catches with a limit of 20 fish per boat. Included in the 20-fish count can be no more than a total of 5 bass per team—not per person.”

If only one person fishes in a boat, they may only count 10 fish with no more than 5 bass total.

Even though the fish can be included in the 20 (or 10) allowed, only one person can count a record fish, so be sure to find a way to identify that fish at weigh-in.

Penalty for Violation of Buddy Tournament: Each member of the team in violation will be considered as a solo fisherman and can only count half of the total weight.

11/14-15/09

Okeechobee

Time: TBD at the November meeting

Place to Stay:

Buckhead Ridge Marina will be reopened in time for our November tournaments.

For Reservations: 863-763-2826

Note that there is a \$100 charge for last-minute cancellations (less than one week's notice).

Directions to Buckhead Ridge Marina from Brevard: Take I-95 south to SR 192 or SR 60 or SR 68 or SR 70 then go west to SR 441. Take SR 441 south to SR 78. Take SR 78 west, crossing over the Kissimmee River and entering Glades County. Shortly after passing the Buckhead water tower turn right at 14th St which continues onto Hunter Road and then turns into Access Road. Follow the signs to Buckhead Ridge Marina.

Other events in Okeechobee:

Friday night (11/13): Several of the guys will be getting together for dinner at Lightsey's at Okee-tan-tee. Bring cleaned fish and they Lightsey's will fix them any way you want and add sides for less than \$8. Of course, if you prefer, you can always order from the menu. Check with **Alex Montminy or Ed Stahley** for the time.

Saturday night (11/14), 7 p.m.: **Ed & Mem Stahley** invite all who go to the Okeechobee tournaments to their place at 129 21st Street, Buckhead Ridge for their annual Thanksgiving dinner. If you plan to come, give Ed a head count at the November 3 meeting or call him no later than Nov 11. Ed reminds everyone that parking is at a premium at his place, so please do not bring boats and trailers at Buckhead Ridge Marina. Just disconnect trailers from a couple vehicles and carpool and remember not to block anyone's driveway. All food and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. BYOB.

“WANTED” OR “FOR SALE” ADS OR ARTICLES: If you have an article, a “For Sale” or a “Wanted” ad, or anything else you'd like included in the next newsletter, please give the information to **Betty Brown** no later than September 30, 2009:

Phones:	321-504-7881 (H), 321-749-9949 (C)
Email:	lizbrown@cfl.rr.com
Snail mail:	855 Clifton's Cove Ct., Cocoa, FL 32926

WEBSITE: www.floridaflyrodclub.com

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES:

Our old digital scale has given up the ghost, so we will get a new one prior to the October tournament. The new one will be smaller and more accurate than the bucket but large enough to weigh any type of big fish on one unit. We hope to obtain one with a tray so small fish can be easily identified and counted faster. Also, to quickly take care of challenges on length, we are buying a solid fish measurer where the snout of the fish can be placed against a fixed point and measure back to the tail. We've been pretty lax about the measuring and counting in recent years and we'd like to rectify that.

Next season (begins Feb 2010) we're going to get back to the rules of the club to make competition fairer. If anyone has a challenge, they will need to do so at the time of weigh in—not later. The Weigh Master will have the final say. We can all do our part by affixing a ruler to our boats and measuring fish as we bring them in, which will further reduce the need for a challenge and will speed up weigh-ins. If all of us do our part, we should be able to have a faster weigh-in with few if any challenges and everyone can go home happy.

As a review, the Tournament Rules in the By-Laws state, in part:

“Scoring shall be limited to a total of twenty fish of any species of club recognized game fish with a maximum of five bass included.”

“All legal freshwater panfish shall be 7 inches in length and a legal freshwater bass shall be 14 inches in length, unless the area to be fished has specific regulations in which case the club as a whole will determine the regulations for that tournament pursuant to all state and/or federal regulations. Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with the fish laid flat, mouth closed, and tail lobe pressed together.

“Striped bass, Peacock bass and Sunshine bass within legal size and bag limits shall be counted a bass for awards purposes but shall not be included in the largemouth bag limit (5).

“Shad, Pickerel, Catfish and exotics shall be treated as game fish for awards purposes but not as panfish.”

To review the section on Penalties:

“a. Contestants who fail to appear at the official check-in site at the predetermined check-in time will be penalized 10 percent of total weight and an additional 10 percent of total weight for each minute late.

“b. In the event of an emergency resulting in late return to the check-in site, all members involved in the emergency shall be allowed to weigh their fish for the tournament and same included for annual awards purposes, provided that a majority of the tournament participants determine that such an emergency existed.

“c. A member shall be penalized 10 percent of his total legal catch for each undersized fish brought to the weigh master.”

If we start practicing the tournament rules now, we'll be all set for the coming season.

YOU NEED TO KNOW:

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FWC)

Florida Fish Busters' Bulletin

October 2009

Florida Fisheries Habitat

Bob Wattendorf

Florida's freshwater anglers are blessed with 7,700 lakes greater than 10 acres, covering 3 million total acres, and approximately 12,000 miles of fishable rivers, streams and canals. That means diverse habitat for more than 200 species of native freshwater fishes, plus more than 23 species of nonnative fishes that reproduce in our waters. However, Florida faces several issues that could affect fishing in the state.

Recent news articles from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reported widespread mercury contamination in fish nationwide. This is an issue the Florida departments of Health, Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Consumer Services, along with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), have been carefully monitoring. Together these agencies are reminding Floridians that eating fish is an important part of a healthy diet and that active outdoor recreation, such as fishing and boating, can be an important key to a happier, healthier lifestyle.

Eating a variety of fish provides an excellent source of nutrition. For most people, fish caught in Florida do not pose a significant health concern with regard to mercury; however, it is advisable for women of childbearing age and young children to select fish that are low in mercury. You can find additional information about fish consumption advisories and fact sheets at <http://doh.state.fl.us/floridafishadvice/>.

Another USGS release announced that effluent containing hormones from women's birth control pills and estrogen-replacement therapy has affected fishes — creating a feminizing effect caused by these hormones. However, research is also looking at the effect of other chemical stressors that aren't directly related to hormones, such as pesticides, heavy metals and cleaning compounds.

Nationally, 44 percent of male black bass tested had egg cells growing in them, and the effect was found in six of the nine rivers tested across the country. The only river tested in the USGS study from Florida was the Apalachicola, where 60 percent of bass from near Blountstown were intersex.

Although the FWC has done some background sampling and work with the University of Florida to further expose the problem in the Sunshine State, much work remains to determine how this issue will impact fish populations and what can be done to safeguard them and the public.

Summer fish kills have always been common in Florida. These are consistently associated with low dissolved oxygen levels in the water and not typically associated with pollutants. First, warm water can hold less dissolved oxygen than cold water. Second, fish and other animals need dissolved oxygen to live; when they pass it through their gills, they remove oxygen. Combine warm water with less dissolved oxygen and it can be a lethal combination for Florida's freshwater fish.

All of these issues point to the reason environmental and health agencies need to continue to work together. The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, a comprehensive strategy to allocate conservation dollars for effective restoration of our national waterways, is working its way through Congress. The act, if passed, will improve how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approaches fish habitat conservation.

Because 40 percent of the U.S. fish populations are in decline and half of our waters are impaired, this bill encourages collaborative regional conservation efforts that bring together federal government agencies, state and local governments, conservation groups, fishing industry groups and businesses. The bill is being supported by The Nature Conservancy, American Sportfishing Association and other partners. You can learn more at FishHabitat.org.

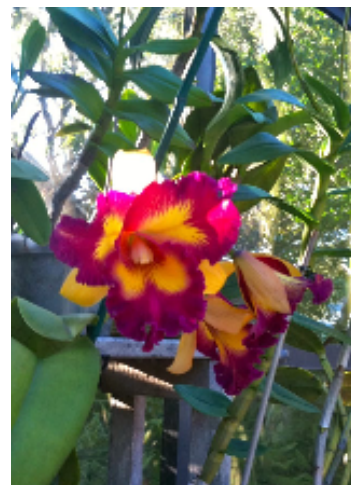
Your FWC isn't waiting for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act; we're already working with other state, federal, local and private partners to ensure a safe and sustainable future for Florida's freshwater fisheries. In addition, the FWC has an active Aquatic Habitat Resource Enhancement section. However, you and groups like the Florida Freshwater Fishing Coalition (FLFFC.org) and others can play a vital role in ensuring that the public understands the importance of healthy aquatic resources and the challenges facing us. Some of those challenges have been around since before the Seminoles, and others are a product of our technology and growth, but by working together, they are all manageable.

*Instant licenses are available at MyFWC.com/License or by calling 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Report violators by calling *FWC or #FWC on your cell phone, or 888-404-3922. Visit <http://www.myfwc.com/Fishing/> for more Fish Busters' columns.*

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Sorry, folks. No pictures this time. Our photographer flew the coop the weekend of the tournaments.

Since we don't have any fish pics this month, here's something else to enjoy—compliments of **Don Barker's** camera and green thumb. Gorgeous, aren't they?



Florida Flyrod Club Total & Top Eight Weight Ladder

Updated 09/20/09

Grand Master	Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Top 8	Big Fish
Stahley, Ed*	31.5	97.6	12.3	141.4	97.2	
Donoghue, Don*	28.6	68.1	16.2	112.9	88.5	Shellcracker, 16.0 oz.
Stahley, Lenny*	14.0	58.7	19.0	91.7	83.0	
Davis, Janson	5.5	26.3	20.9	52.7	52.7	
Deithorn, Dave*	5.9	36.7	15.0	57.6	44.9	Speck, 22 oz.
Carter, Glen	1.5	10.8	12.4	24.7	24.7	
Taylor, Ron	3.7	10.5	0.0	14.2	14.2	
Goforth, Bob						
Master Angler	Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Top 8	Big Fish
Montminy, Alex*	20.9	45.9	11.6	78.4	74.0	Bass, 3.7 lbs.
Barker, Don	14.1	10.4	9.0	33.5	33.5	
Richards, Jim	5.5	7.8	17.3	30.6	30.6	
Price, Coleman	0.0	17.6	1.0	18.6	18.6	
McCallister, Glenn	7.5	4.3	4.1	15.9	15.9	
Houser, Wes	0.0	13.2	0.0	13.2	13.2	
Wells, Henry	0.0	13.0	0.0	13.0	13.0	
Knuckles, Brent	0.0	3.6	0.0	3.6	3.6	
Chavers, Frank						
Houser, Steve						
Newbern, Tom						
Sports Angler	Bass	Panfish	Other	Total	Top 8	Big Fish
Adams, Frank*	9.2	38.3	8.4	55.9	54.5	
Deithorn, Sean	4.4	24.5	9.5	38.4	38.4	
Benham, Dave	10.2	21.6	4.5	36.3	36.3	
Benham, Bea	10.2	16.3	4.5	31.0	31.0	Bream, 13.4 oz.
Haskins, Lee	3.3	10.8	14.1	28.2	28.2	
Koller, Al	7.5	4.6	4.1	16.2	16.2	
Carter, Teri	1.5	12.9	0.0	14.4	14.4	
Deithorn, Erik	0.0	7.1	0.0	7.1	7.1	
Price, Matthew	0.7	3.7	0.8	5.2	5.2	
Smith, Herb	0.0	4.4	0.0	4.4	4.4	
Heuerman, Bill	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.1	1.1	
Brown, Betty						
Brown, Bill						
Canada, Gene						
Davis, Chris						
Duncklee, Ernest						
Ferrell, Ron						
Franklin, Casey						
Franklin, Don						
Franklin, Travis, Lt.						
Gersten, Cindy						
Gersten, Steve						
Hart, Herb						
Hart, Retha						
Heuerman, Sue						
Houston, Lang						
Knuckles, Helen						
McKinney, Keith						
Phillips, Hance						
Price, Virginia						
Sargent, Bill						
Saunders, Gene						
Warren, Earl						

*NOTE: The total weight exceeds the top 8 weight when the individual has fished more than 8 tournaments.