FFF ClubWire
Welcome to the July / August 2010 issue of the ClubWire e-mail news service for clubs.

- FFF Member e-newsletter –
If your not getting our monthly FFF Member e-newsletter and would like to. It’s easy to sign up. Go to http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ca?v=001oqwWjY62mfmlIHsoPizZRg%3D%3D and just enter the e-mail address you would like it to be sent to.

- National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave – Education, Inspiration, Celebration –
The 2010 National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave – EDUCATION, INSPIRATION, CELEBRATION - West Yellowstone Montana here we come!

Pre-registration is now closed. If you decide to come you will be able to register on site Tuesday August 24th. Registration Desk will be located at the Holiday Inn, 315 Yellowstone Ave.

Plan to attend the live auction on Friday August 27. We will have a preview from 6:00-7:30 with great appetizers, a cash bar along with a raffle drawing and some silent auction items. To attend the preview, purchase your ticket for $15.00 when you register or get your ticket on-site at the show on the 24 or 25. There is no fee to attend the live auction so just show up at 7:30 sharp to bid on great fly fishing trips, beautiful fly plates, flies, and exceptional art to the finest gear we are sure to have items for everyone who pursues a fly fishing lifestyle.

Book & DVD Reviews
Reviewed by Bruce E Harang

Fly Casting Scandinavian Style by Henrik Mortensen
192 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color and B&W, suggested price $39.95 USD

This is an outstanding tutorial for learning to cast in what the author describes as the Scandinavian style. Henrik Mortensen is a practical fly fisherman and this book is like its author a practical work that provides everything the reader needs to learn to fish more effectively and efficiently with a two hand rod. The basic premise of this style of casting is that the "perfect cast" is one that catches a fish. It is also one that allows you to fish all day without undue stress and fatigue. Henrik is also an accomplished designer of rods, lines, and other fly fishing gear. With this extensive background the author is able to teach the reader exactly how to choose and set up a proper Scandinavian head system including the head, the leader, the running line and the type of rod most suited to this style of two hand casting. If you have ever seen Henrik Mortensen cast you know how amazingly simple and easy he makes it look. This book is what you need to allow you to cast as easily and effectively. This English language version of the book is extremely well written. The photography is also quite outstanding and augments the text very well. The author's analysis of the dynamics of the cast is extremely well presented. The information on creating tuned leaders alone is worth the cost of the book. The discussion on using the Riffle Hitch for dry fly fishing is outstanding. The book is well written and illustrated. The design and publication is top notch. This no nonsense approach utilizes a simple gear system, and only a few casts done from both the left side and the right side of the body. The information on how to use this simple system to effectively fish from 30 feet to whatever distance you need will allow the reader to learn to fish all the water from both sides of the river. For those who love practical casting as much as the fishing the thoughtful discussions on what makes
an effective cast will be most welcome. Henrik Mortensen provides exciting and provocative ideas, as well as an effective fishing system within this lovely book.

*Single-Handed Spey Casting* by Simon Gawesworth
Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA 2010
248 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color and B&W, suggested price $39.95

Spey casts and casts utilizing Spey casting techniques are not solely the realm of the two-hand rod fly fisherman. They are also very suitable, useful, and successful for casting with one-hand rods. While one-handed Spey casting has been used for a long time, it has not been generally known within the one-handed casting community of fly fishermen. This book is an important step in correcting this oversight. The book comprises six sections, a well-presented Glossary, and a well-developed Index. In addition, there is an Acknowledgments section giving credit to those who have helped in the development of the book.

The six sections began with basics of all fly casting using well designed line drawings to clearly convey the universal physics of casting a line with a fly rod. No matter what cast the reader prefers, these rules apply. No matter your casting level you will find this short chapter a store wealth of understanding of the dynamics of the cast. The second chapter provides information on the "To-and-Fro" and the "Continuous Motion" types of casts. The next chapter deals with only the forward stroke. This stroke being found in every cast of every type means that it is something every caster must master to become proficient. Finally, in chapter 4, teaches how to perform the "Catch Cast" for the amusement and amazement of your friends and fishing buddies. It also has a useful purpose beyond that, but the startled looks of your buddies is reason enough to learn it. The second section of the book provides the reader with casts that overcome problems behind the fly fisherman when he is actually fishing. These include the Roll cast, Double roll cast, Switch cast, Single Spey and Double Spey casts, the Snake Roll, the Snap T and a very interesting Dry Fly Spey cast. The third section deals with problems in front of the caster and include casts which can overcome the problems and allow for successful presentation of the fly. These include the Side cast, the Shepherd's Crook cast, The Reach cast, the Aerial Mend and Slack-Line casts. Section four presents three casts that can overcome a combination of problems front and back. These casts are some of the most creative casts one can add to their arsenal and include the Roll cast with Side Cut, Spey casts with Side Cut, and Sneaky Spey casts. Section five presents advanced information and ideas to lift your casting to a higher plane including Hauling, Advanced D Loops, Slack Casts (poking), and Turbo casts. Each cast has its own chapter that includes a background introduction, a call-out describing the type of cast and when to use it, followed by excellent textual description and photographic illustration. Where it is helpful, well designed line drawings are also used. The final section of the book deals with rod, line, and leader selection for various casting styles, line profiles, type of fly being cast.

This is an excellently designed, well written, and beautifully illustrated volume. The single-hand caster will learn many interesting and very useful techniques to make presenting the fly in actual fishing conditions more successful. Moreover the information presented here is also of great benefit to any two-hand rod caster. For the fly fisherman this book presents solutions to many everyday presentation problems. For the fly fisherman that is also a casting "nut" there is great food for thought and ideas to play with "just for the love of casting". Purchase this book, read it, practice what it teaches, and have a heck of a lot of fun along the way.

*Adams Dry Fly*
By Gene Rea – Taken from the Pikes Peak Flyfishers Newsletter

The venerable Adams is one of those American fly patterns that can trace its origins all the way back to 1922, originated by Len Halladay of Michigan at the request of his close friend Charles Adams.

Where the Pheasant Tail represents the nymphal stage of the Baetis, the Adams generally represents the adult (dun) stage of the BWO. The wonderful thing about the Adams is that it can also be used to represent other adult species of insects such as midges…it is that versatile. Other variations of the Adams include egg-bearing females, trailing-shuck emergers, thorax ties, and CDC-hackled Adams. Not too shabby for a fly that is thought was originally tied to imitate a caddis. The original version tied by Len Halladay had a down wing.
There are two methods presently used in the tying of the Adams, the traditional style with the hackle perpendicular to the hook shank and the parachute style with the hackle parallel to the hook shank wrapped around a wing-post. The method you choose is dependent upon your personal preference, but I am an advocate of the parachute style for the following, and probably the most compelling reason… it presents a more natural profile of the actual insect in the surface film.

With the traditional style the fly actually rides above the surface film of the water. The fly makes minimal contact with the surface film as the hackle and the tail support the weight of the fly on the surface. I believe the fish sees a more distorted picture of the fly. With the parachute method the fly actually lays flush with the surface film presenting more of a natural appearance to the fish. The horizontal hackle (legs), tail and abdomen of the fly are supported in the surface film. What the fish sees is the same silhouette as presented by the natural and I believe this makes it more appealing to the fish and more effective than the traditional style.

The traditional style has its advantages too. I think it is more practical when fishing in rougher water such as riffles because it tends to be a little more buoyant and it is easier to see in the rougher water. Since the fish doesn’t get as good of a look at the fly as they do in calmer water it makes no difference that it doesn’t lay flush in the film. But, in calmer water, you would do well to go with the parachute.

On those days when the fish are rising to midge dries you can use a parachute Adams in sizes #20 - #26 with light 6X to 7X tippets and do very well on them. When the fish are feeding on the surface you can throw a #20 - #22 parachute Adams with a smaller emerger dropped off the bend that rides just under the surface film. I call this double jeopardy…regardless of whether the fish are on dries or emergers you have it covered.

One of my favorite combinations when drifting a big river like the Gunnison or the Colorado is to drop a #18 Hi-Vis Parachute Adams off of a #10/12 Stimulator or Hopper and throw that rig right up against the bank while you drift…it is non-stop action, no kidding! Look for gentle sipping of the Adams as opposed to the vicious attacks on the Stimulator or Hopper.

As always…remember to de-barb your hooks! You will be helping the fish, and it will be a lot easier to remove that fly from your ear-lobe or cheek when there is no barb. Tight Lines!

One Night At Fly Tying Class…
Submitted by Karl Kish - from the Arizona Flycasters Newsletter

A funny thing happened at one of the last fly tying sessions. Juanita Cason was working hard to follow each of Sara Yeager's instructions. While Juanita toiled away Sara came by to inspect. Juanita was proud of her work. Sara was impressed. But as Sara inspected, she happened to tug at the flies wings and PULLED THEM OFF! Sara was horrified at what she had done, and yet the more she looked at it, she could not hold back a fit of laughter. Juanita was also infected by the laughter. To make up for the misstep, Sara composed the following poem for Juanita.

Juanita's Wingless Wonder - By Sara "pull your wing off" Yeager

I feel such sadness for your poor little flies,
Who must, without wings, live out their lives.

Whilst lying in your fly box, how dejected they feel,
Surrounded by flies looking so beautiful and real.

The other flies laugh and make fun of their looks,
Saying, "The only thing in common is our barbless hooks!"

"You're naked and skinny, why no fish will bite...
Something so "wingless"; why you can't even take flight!"

But, little do they know that much greatness awaits.
For your "wingless wonders" are a trout's favorite bait.
So at the water's edge; next time I shall ponder,
And the fly I'll choose will be Juanita's "wingless wonder!"

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 8
By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

Why do I get wind knots in my leader? Does this happen even when there isn't any wind? A simple overhand knot in your leader will weaken it 50%, so avoiding them should be a priority. Knots in the leader or line while casting are all caused by the rod tip traveling in a concave direction, where the rod tip is lower in the middle of the cast than either end, resulting in a tailing loop. Remember, the line follows the rod tip. Your cast can tail on either the forward or back cast. Some of the most common causes are having too short a casting arc, the angle formed when the rod moves from the start to the finish of the cast and not applying power evenly during the cast.

Capt. Paul Hawkins – Why Go To The Keys When You’ve Got Tampa Bay
By Bill AuCoin – Taken from the Suncoast Fly Fishers Newsletter

Capt. Paul Hawkins wishes the sheriffs of today could be more like the sheriff in the Florida Keys 25 years ago. Hawkins used to fish the Keys a lot in those days. He said if somebody let the air out of your boat trailer tires back at the marina, it was a waste of time to complain to the Sheriff. He’d just say, “You weren’t buzzing the flats, were you?”

Apocryphal? Maybe. But the feeling resonates still with Hawkins and careful guides like him who position their fly fishing clients for redfish and snook using the quiet power of experience, eyesight, and a deft hand on the push pole.

That aggravation is especially strong when a tower boat blows past the edge of the flat, spooking that school of 50 permit he’s been stalking for half an hour.

Or, the time when he overheard one redfish guide yell to another, “Too bad we don’t have five or six boats. We could box them in.” Aaaaaaarrrrrrgh.

That’s just another day in the office for Capt. Paul, who shared some of his insights for Suncoast Fly Fishers at the June meeting. Like, these:

• Turn off the outboard motor and use the pole to cover the last quarter-mile to your fish. Don’t use the electric motor, either. Then you’ll fish undisturbed fish and it will make all the difference.
• Redfish do not like to be approached or chased. Hang back and watch to see where they are going. Position the boat so that they come to you.
• Presentation is critical. Fish don’t like to be attacked, even by tiny baitfish. The trick is to let the fish see your fly then move the fly away from the fish.
• Reds are fellow travelers, especially in the spring and fall. They often move together, feed together. If one is nervous, they’re all nervous.
• In the winter, Hawkins likes to target singles, especially when the tide starts to come back up on the flat to feed after a negative tide. A -0.09 tide should speed up your heart rate.
• In the summer, the best redfish tides are at night. Don’t think you can’t fly-fish at night. Once your eyes get used to the glow of the moon and stars you’ll see baitfish and redfish moving across a flat, snook slurping noisily at the surface.
• The best winter fly to use (okay, not every time) is a dark bendback streamer with a touch of orange. The orange is so you can see your fly. At. All. Times.
• How many feet of leader should you use? In clear conditions Hawkins will use as much as 20 feet of monofilament between his fly and fly line.
• Don’t stop looking for fish in all directions. Fish come out of the sun. They come out of the wind. Know how to punch cast. Know how not to hook your guide in the eyelid. This actually happened to a guide Paul knows who shall remain nameless.
• Wear glasses at all times. (See previous item.)

Hawkins doesn’t make the long run to and from the Keys like he did back in the 80s. “No need to, really,” he said. “Tampa Bay is pretty damn good all by itself.”
Lori’s Big Brown On A Dry Fly
By John Berry

I guided for several days early in the week and I had a day off before the busy Fourth of July weekend. When I checked the South West Power Administration website, I saw that the long anticipated low water was due to occur. I discussed the possibility of a day of fishing with my wife, Lori, and she was ready. We were getting our gear ready, when I heard a knock at the door. It was Fed Ex delivering my beloved Sage Light Line (this is the rod I lost and then was returned to me). I had sent it back to Sage to be repaired and I was jubilant at its return. I immediately considered this to be a good omen for the day's fishing.

We loaded our gear and my yellow lab, Ellie, into my ancient Volvo, drove to the access and walked far up stream. It was a sunny, pleasantly warm day. There was no generation and the river was on the bottom. There was a bit of wind (ten to fifteen miles an hour). Lori went to her favorite spot and I walked over to mine. From where I was fishing, I could easily see her. She was into trout almost immediately. I could tell from the way she was false casting that she was fishing a dry fly. I assumed that she was fishing a sulphur parachute. I had observed several hatching on the previous day. I started out fishing a copper John, which is a good imitation of the sulphur nymph. I was struggling a bit. I hooked a good brown but it broke off. I noticed that Lori was landing fish after fish.

As I was tying on a sulphur parachute, I glanced downstream once more and I noticed the Lori was into another fish. Judging from the bend in her rod, it was a big one. I saw Ellie launch into the water after the trout. I was mesmerized by the battle and just stood there and watched. The struggle continued for some time before I noticed Lori working her way to quieter water. I surmised that it was most likely a trophy. I reeled in my line, secured the hook and began working my way down to her location to have a better view of the battle.

When I was about half way there Lori called out to me. She said that she had a big brown on and needed some assistance. I picked up the pace. Lori was having an equipment malfunction. Her reel seat had worked loose and the reel was turned to an awkward angle. She was concerned that the reel would malfunction and she opted to finish the fight by stripping in the line.

This is a strategy with great risk. The best way to fight a big fish is on the reel where the fish can run and pull out line. This makes the trout fight against the reel's drag system which puts enough pressure on the fish to eventually tire him but not enough to break the tippet. By stripping in the line, you take the chance that the fish will not make a quick move and break off. Luckily the brown was tiring and the soft tip on Lori’s rod, a Winston Joan Wulff Favorite, took the shock of the erratic movements of the brown. Lori was in her element. She deftly worked the brown near the shore and finally landed it. It was a righteous twenty four inch male brown. It was her largest brown ever and she had caught it on a dry fly.

I reached over my left shoulder and pulled my waterproof digital camera from my fishing vest. We took a few minutes to take a few photos including an underwater shot of the big brown. The biggest problem we had during the process was to keep Ellie from grabbing the big trout. We then carefully revived the fish and released it back into the river. We had been fishing for less than thirty minutes.

I walked to a nearby riffle and began fishing in earnest. My first fish of the day was a fat sixteen inch cutthroat. I picked up a stout seventeen inch rainbow and then a nice fourteen inch brookie. All I needed to complete my grand slam was a brown. In the meantime Lori caught a nice brook trout. All that she needed for her grand slam was a cutthroat. The day turned into a hunt for the last trout we needed for our respective grand slams. The wind picked and the hatch wound down. I went back to the copper John and moved down stream to a nice riffle. I caught a fat nineteen inch rainbow. It was the first of many. I stood there and landed maybe thirty fish with the average trout being around sixteen inches long.

I had caught enough. For Lori that is not possible. I walked back to where she was. Her obsession was to land a cutthroat and get her grand slam. She was catching trout after trout but she caught no cut. We walked back downstream to where I had been fishing. Ellie followed. She fished that spot for another hour and caught maybe thirty more. I walked around and tried different spots picking up several trout in the process. I came to realize that it was getting late. Lori was hesitant to leave but we had things to do.
We walked out hand in hand with Ellie leading the way. We had encountered perfect conditions, low water and hatching insects. It was the kind of day we will recall years from now. I look forward to that!

**My Favorite Boat**  
By Clay Gill – Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

Most everybody has fond memories of a favorite old boat. It might be a row boat, kayak, or canoe. It might be a 35 foot yacht you prowled in, on the Mississippi. You might remember a fun and friendly old craft, sturdy and true. I have one favorite and own it to this day. It is an old fiberglass canoe, once red and now camo with Rhino Liner sprayed on the floor board and bottom to beef it up. Heavy and big, it has a million stories to tell. If it could only talk! The amazing stories it can tell.

We have owned many power boats and have a skiff now that really does it all so to speak. But the trouble to hook it up and get all the batteries charged, and pack all the necessary gear makes this high tech floatation a chore honestly. The truth be known, with all the sentimentality and memories, I would really rather take this canoe to a ranch lake and simply bust Bass by the dozen than other forms of fishing.

Sleek and quiet, this steady craft, has all the attributes of a dependable fishing machine. It has seen Gators, hauled Ducks and dogs, been a water taxi, and we even slept under it a few times during storms. You can’t help but become sentimental with an attachment to something so venerated. Just a camo painted red canoe, it is so much more. This old craft has seen and done it all. Every old fun outdoor photo we have seems to have it in the edge or bottom of the picture.

Other boats came into the scene over the years. Single and double kayaks and tubes, flat bottoms and a few others have come and gone. We still have several kayaks and use them often. Some are better for summer,(sit on tops), and others sit inside, for winter fishing. But the romance with canoes is eternal. Anyone who has one loves to just paddle around in them. It is the summer camp syndrome. It is fun!

Modern canoes have built in accessories and padded seats. They can be hauled on wheels, and have all sorts of add on items to buy now from the “Pro” shops. One man, doubles and everything from plastic, fiberglass, to traditional aluminum offer a great assortment of touring canoes. Early canoes were wood!

One big draw back to canoes is wind. Alone on a windy day you will struggle. No joke, it can be tough. I take a low wide, short kayak for tank fishing or open water when prevailing winds will pester me all day. I would rather have a calm day in the canoe but the kayak maneuvers better in strong wind, -and the fish don’t care.

I have been looking at the fancy new single canoes that are low and wide. Half day trips in a boat like this close to home are my plan. You cannot hardly find fiberglass any more. A new high tech lightweight canoe may cause me to leave my heavy old canoe at home. It seems heavier each year.

Sometimes you wonder why more people do not use canoes at the coast, until you get caught in the wind. You could find yourself in another city down the coast after a windy afternoon. The kayak still reigns King out on the coastal flats.

If I ever retire this marvelous old canoe, it will most assuredly be hung from the ceiling or up over the fireplace. It is loved that much and we all have memories in this boat. Our photo albums attest to all the good times on the water. I remember we once forgot the paddles on trip down south. We used fence pickets and still caught fish paddling around in the flooded brush with a fence picket broken in half!

I often wonder if I really like my canoe that much or is it the lifetime memories built right in that hard old solid seat. It is more than just a confidence you get with something that brings you luck. That old vessel is a member of the family.

**Live Your Dream Katie**  
By Mike Adamson – From the Backcountry Flyfishing Assoc – Central Florida Newsletter

Last week my daughter joined Cas and I as we waded the sunset. Katie is an accomplished fisherwoman who can often be found on a flat in pursuit of various species. We’ve fished a lot together over the years. But that evening was
nostalgic and held special significance. It was our last fishing trip for awhile. This week Katie heads to Australia for a year.

I learn a lot from both my kids. Like many siblings they are vastly different. My son is bright, creative, gregarious and a wonderful reconciler of disparate people. He can make friends with a rock. Katie leans toward fiery, adventurous, and compassionate. She cares deeply about things like global warming, off-shore drilling and protecting fish species. She’s the one who spends the summer working an AIDS orphanage in South Africa and the winter riding dogsleds in Colorado.

She just graduated from UF with an Environmental Science degree and she’s about to get on plane with only a backpack, her hiking boots, a guitar and a fishing pole. Mind you, she doesn’t have a job, or enough money to last a year, but she’s confident she’ll find work on a dive boat, a fishing charter or an eco-tour. I’m less confident but mostly I’m jealous.

My advice (she calls it lecturing) leans toward planning, budgeting, responsibility and seeing the big picture. They’re the kind of topics that mask just how proud I am of her. But as she gets ready to get on a plane I’m not only proud and a little sad…I’m also cognizant of some of the things that she exemplifies and reinforces in my life. As a fellow sportsman I pass along a few of them that make sense for all of us.

Respect the Resource
Katie is the resident “tree-hugger” in the family. She defaults to MSNBC. Me, Fox. It makes for some interesting dinner conversation, yet in the midst of all of our discussions I hear a love for the world around her. Her life reminds me that part of pursuing a life of fly-fishing is to protect and serve both the habitat and the inhabitants.

Love Adventure
When your 23 yrs. old it makes perfect sense to trek the Rain Forest and dive the Great Barrier Reef. You can start your career at 24. At age 55 that may not make sense for me but it does make sense to let the grass grow an extra day, and to get up early so I can be in place to watch the sun rise on a flat. One author writes that in the soul of every man is an intrinsic desire for beauty, intimacy and adventure. I’ve seen the pursuit of adventure in the lives of enough people (including many of you) to believe that a Designer has planted it in our core. OK, here comes the shameless plug. As long as you’re part of the BFA make it a point to live out the sense of adventure and share it alongside other fisherman. Katie reminds me that adventure is best shared together.

Live with Purpose/ Serve People / Care
These all kind of go together. Even as she heads down under, Katie has a long term view that humanity can be served. All the talk about the environment, the long-term survival of fish species and clean water is founded in a concern for people. She wants to make her life count both in the near term and in the long term. She cares. She reinforces in me the need to care.

OK, that was a little introspective but cut me some slack. I’m not going to see one of my kids for a year and I’m losing a fishing buddy until July 2011. Until then, live your dream Katie. Mom and I love you more than you know. Remember to keep your Skype account hot. Bon Voyage!

Keep Informed and Spread The Word
We need more clubs to join the ranks to help in the conservation and education efforts of the FFF. If you would like to start a club or know of a club that might be interested in affiliating with the FFF please direct them to the Club Information pages below:

Please send an e-mail to fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org should your club have a fishing / tying event / banquet. We would like to add these events to our web site calendar of events. Provide the date, location, name of your club and a website address that I can link to direct our members for more information. The events calendar is on the following web page http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4513