



SALTY BYTES

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Saltwater Fly Anglers of Delaware

November/December 2011
Writer/Editor: Roy Miller

On the internet at www.sfaod.com; our club message board is at www.TidalFish.com

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-A Note from the Editor-

As always, contributions of articles, comments, or pictures that I can include in subsequent newsletters are welcome. You can reach me at home at 302-645-7103, or by cell at 302-381-3760 or by email at fishmaster70@comcast.net.

Recent Club Happenings

November 9 Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7:00 PM at the Rolling Meadows clubhouse in Lewes. Rich King from Delaware Surfishing came to see what the club is all about, and he put a nice report on his web site (<http://delaware-surf-fishing.com/>). Thanks Rich.

Nominations for the Board of Directors were announced previously and discussed at the meeting. The nominations were closed with the same BOD minus Rick Ranalli who is stepping down as of January 1, 2012 after many years of dedicated service to the Club. Rick will continue to post email fishing reports for the Club members. Rick nominated Paul Jimenez for the BOD and Paul accepted the nomination. The nominations will be

voted on at the December meeting. Paul is taking over membership chores for Rick Ranalli, including collecting of annual dues.

Rick thanked everyone for the kind words that were offered and assured everyone that he will not be a stranger, but he needed more family time.

Rick reminded everyone of the Holiday Dinner on the 6th of January at the same place as last year, namely the Lewes Presbyterian Church, on Kings Highway in Lewes. It promises to be a good night out with your spouse or significant other. The cost is \$5 per person for a great meal that will be catered using the same caterer as last year.

Rick said that we only have a few flies for the best saltwater fly tying contest. If you have one you need to get it to Rick by the December meeting.

Capt. Chuck Cook was our featured speaker and he did a great job with his presentation about his fly and light tackle charter business in Delaware. All agreed that it was a very interesting talk.

December 14 Meeting

The meeting commenced at the Rolling Hills Clubhouse at 7:00 PM. Rick was afforded another heartfelt round of applause for his many services to the Club over the years while serving as President, member of the Board of Directors, and as a mentor to so many beginning saltwater fly fishermen and women. Rick has been integral to the Club since its inception in the 1990s. Rick reminded all that January 6, 2012 is our annual dinner at the Lewes Presbyterian Church on Kings Highway. The meal will be catered and there will be a very modest charge (\$5) per attendee. The dinner on the 6th will serve as our monthly meeting for January. January 7 will be our first fly tying session at Lewes Harbor Marina beginning at 0900 and lasting until noon.

For February we probably will have Captain Kevin Josenhans as our meeting speaker. The show Outdoor Delmarva probably will do a piece on our weekly fly tying sessions at Lewes Harbor Marina. The Somerset, NJ fly fishing show will be held this year from January 27-29. Tie Fest on Kent Island, MD probably will be held this year around Feb. 11. On March 31 Lure Fest will be held at Bowers Beach.

A preliminary list of prizes for the grand raffle which will be held at our April meeting was distributed to the meeting attendees. There already are 13 prizes on our list and probably more will be added before the raffle.

Don't forget to submit your best tied fly for the annual John Meaghre tying contest. The flies will be judged by the end of December.

Roy Miller provided an update on the ASMFC annual meeting at our December meeting, and then presented a Power Point slide talk on a peacock bass fly fishing trip he made in South Florida in November with guide Alan Zaremba from Ft. Lauderdale.

Upcoming Events for 2012

Jan. 6 – Club dinner meeting at Lewes Presbyterian Church

Jan. 7 – First Saturday morning fly tying session at Lewes Harbor Marina

Feb. 8 – Regular meeting at Rolling Meadows Clubhouse, Capt. Kevin Josenhans, speaker

Feb. 11 – Tie Fest on Kent Island, MD

Mar. 14 – Regular Club meeting

Mar. 24 –Lure Fest at Bowers Beach
Apr. 11 – Regular meeting and Grand Raffle
May 9 – Regular Club meeting with outdoor casting
May 19 – Host White Clay Creek Fly Fishers in Lewes
June 13 – Regular Club meeting and tackle swap
June 23 – Club picnic at Trap Pond State Park
July 11 – Regular Club meeting
Aug. 8 – Regular Club meeting
Sep. 12 – Regular Club meeting
Sep. 22 – One fly contest?
Oct. 7 – Coast Day in Lewes
Oct. 10 – Regular Club meeting
Nov. 14 – Regular Club meeting
Dec. 12 – Regular Club meeting

Here is an important article and opinion piece by Ron Smith of our Board of Directors:

RELEASE OUR FUTURE

At a time when all of us are concerned about the dwindling number of fish, we are finding each year it is imperative that we treat our resource with the care and respect it deserves. As a fly fisherman, I would like to think that we practice our interest in conserving the fisheries and environment to a higher degree than most.

With this said how can we assure that this is accomplished? As Lee Wulff once said “A fish is a much too valuable resource to be caught only once,” so therefore we must make every effort to see that we release our catch unharmed and to ensure a repeat performance.

Most important is that we do not overstress our fish. We all like to talk about the “big one” landed on a two-weight rod, but in so doing we have probably done damage to the fish. When a fish is stressed from being played too long, lactic acid builds up within the fish, and it may fail to recover. This is especially true during the summer months when the water temperature is very high. You may want to consider stopping catch and release during the hottest part of the year.

Next we need to keep the time that the fish is out of water to a minimum. A simple rule of thumb that I like to follow is to hold your breath when the fish is removed from the water, and to place the fish back into the water when you can no longer hold your breath. This can be facilitated by having your camera out and ready to shoot. When using a digital camera, designate a person to take pictures that can be shared on line at a later time.

Damage to the fish can also occur by mishandling the fish. Using dry hands will break the slime membrane and permit bacteria and fungi to infect the skin of the fish. This is a fishes’ primary defense against infection. If it is necessary to hold the fish, a wet towel is the best alternative, and, even better, try not to hold the fish at all. A net with rubber or soft plastic netting will do little harm to the slime coating. Another alternative is to use forceps to remove the fly without touching the fish. One word of caution if you use a Boga Grip or similar device; these can do damage to a large fishes’ mouth and gill rakers. Also, try not to lay your fish on a hot deck or concrete surface when air temperatures are very hot. These surfaces can reach well over 160 degrees F.

And last, but not least, consider your hooks. We have all been told to crush the barbs down which makes hook removal easier and causes less harm to the fish. An even better solution is to use a barbless circle hook. I know

that to fly fishermen that is a relatively new idea, but circle hooks do work. I also am switching from stainless hooks and most of you know that I now use the Gamakatsu 60 round bend jig hook and that I find it always hooks in the side or top of the mouth.

If we all follow good release methods, we should leave a legacy of an abundant fishery for our children and grandchildren.

FLYABOUTSMITH

Fishing Reports

Here is a quick summary of some of the other email fishing reports filed with Rick Ranalli:

November - Early in November Ron Smith and Frank Danner fished the Broadkill River and caught numerous stripers. They fished the mouth of several tributaries to the main Broadkill with a variety of Clouser-type flies.

On the 19th, Clyde Seibert fished the outgoing tide at Indian River and caught a couple of nice shad on a chartreuse Clouser.

On the 30th, Paul Dolber caught some small stripers at Herring Point while casting toward the rocks on an outgoing tide. Paul didn't say what type of tackle he was using.

December – On the 7th, Capt. Chuck Cook reported a good night of fishing at Indian River Inlet the previous weekend. He found some quality stripers on the north side jetty at the change of tide. Capt. Chuck sent us the following photos from that night:



A nice night for an angler aboard Capt. Chuck Cook's boat in Indian River Inlet on November 27

On Dec. 12 Ron Smith and Roy Miller enjoyed a nice evening at Indian River Inlet near the Coast Guard lights on Ron's boat while fishing for hickory shad. Some of the shad were rather large for the species. The hot fly was a chartreuse and white Clouser with a touch of pink in size 4.

Check Rick Ranalli's emails from November and December for other reports on fishing trips.

Spring 2012 Grand Raffle Prizes*

1. Orvis 9' 9 wt. 4 piece Hydros rod with Hydros Large Arbor Reel, line backing, rod tube and rod and reel travel case
2. St. Croix fly rod

3. Fly reel
4. Fishing trip with Capt. Chuck Cook of First Light Charters
5. Fish Pond Guide Pack
6. Oak mantel clock made by Bruce Fairful
7. Book-Wild Delmarva by Kevin Fleming
8. Book-Fly Fishing Saltwater by Don Avondolio
9. DVD-Stripers Gone Wild
10. One dozen saltwater flies
11. Fly line
12. Club hat
13. Club hat

*The list of prizes continues to grow

Sponsors

As usual we would like to thank the sponsors of The Saltwater Fly Anglers of Delaware who have graced us with prizes to be included in our monthly raffles and for their general support of club activities. Please return the favor and make a point of patronizing their businesses.

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The lead picture is of the surf at Cape Henlopen. With some luck and favorable weather, we still might have some fishing yet to come this winter on any migrating stripers which haven't left the New Jersey coastline. Photo by Roy Miller