



Minutes October 21, 2015
St. James Community Center

The Cape Fear Flyfishers met at the St. James Community Center on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. Vice-President Steve Moore moderated in President Harry Gobble's absence.

Introduction of New Members and Guests

Steve welcomed David Cary, who visited us last month. David is a long-time freshwater fly fisherman and enjoys tying flies.

Approval of Minutes

The members approved the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Tony Mangiapane reported we have about \$1,700 in the bank which will drop after making an upcoming IFFF payment for liability insurance of about \$350.

Fly Drawing

Ed Smith held the winning ticket for the fly drawing.

Fishing Reports

Fishing has been slow the past month with all the inclement weather and no one had reports to share.

Old Business

IFFF Association Update – The club needs to verify its Employee Identification Number with the IRS, which has no record of our ID number. We must submit [Form 990 or 900 EZ](#), an eight-page form to establish and maintain our status as a non-profit. The club will continue to review the issue.

Holiday Party - The holiday party will be held Thursday, December 17th in the pub room of the [St. James Plantation Members Club](#), the same location as last year. It's a fun event. Let your spouse know so you won't get double booked.

New Business

Elections of Officers for 2016 - Members were invited to volunteer to assume club officer positions in 2016. No one volunteered but a slate of officers had previously expressed their willingness to fill the positions, including, President, Jim White, Vice President, Steve Moore; Treasurer, Tony Mangiapane; and Secretary, Forest Duncan.

N.C. Mountain Trip, October 11-15 - Steve and Tony reported wade fishing was not too productive in Cherokee NC. The area had suffered from heavy fishing pressure and heavy rain one evening, Tony had more success the day before he left, catching about ten trout on the [West Fork of the Pigeon River](#). Steve fished the [Cataloochee Creek](#) but was not impressed, finding it wide and flat.

Those float-fishing on the [Tuckasegee River](#) had better luck. Sue Duncan caught the largest fish, a brook trout. Float fishing was respectable other days. One wader was reporting catching about 40 trout out of one hole - so the Tuckasegee is a good wading option for future consideration.



Sue's Brook Trout



Lunch Time on the Tuck

[Morehead City](#) and [Wrightsville Beach](#), false albacore –we will stay in touch with “informers” and will advise members when we receive reports the fish are present. At this point, we only have two boats with trailers, Bobby Sands and Jim White, so participation will be first come, first serve.

[Georgetown, S.C.](#) – we are now aiming for November or December; we will have a couple of boats with trailers and should be able to hire guides.

PROGRAM: LATE SEASON FISHING FOR REDS AND SPECKS

Our guest speaker was Captain Luke Tippet, of [TopWater Guide Company](#), based in Wilmington, NC. Luke fishes southeastern NC from Oak Island to Topsail, focusing on red drum, flounder, speckled trout and striped bass. Luke has a 22' bay boat, comes to you to fish. He fishes 50-60% of his charters around Oak Island, 30% around Topsail, and the remainder near Wilmington. He



has caught more redfish in one day in the winter than any other time of the year. Anyone presenting his brochure will receive a discount if one charts before the end of the year.

False Albacore

Luke gave an update on fishing for false albacore off Wrightsville Beach. He likes fishing about three miles offshore when there is about a foot of “bump” on the water - the fish tend not to be on the surface when the water is as slick as glass. Fan the beach and keep your eyes out for birds - the afternoon bite has been better lately. Luke does not use sink tip line, preferring tying his flies with barbells. Sink tip line is helpful when the fish are up and down in the water column- he jigs when the fish are down. This week chartreuse was a good color; last week clear worked best. He dabs gorilla glue along the hook shank after tying on the thread. Don't apply too much.

Red Drum

In the summer, redfish are scattered and you must fish the flats. In the winter, they school up and 75% of the time, you will find them in the back of creeks on low tide getting warm. Go as far back in the creek as you can and look for a three-foot hole near an oyster bed. You have got to scout the creeks to find them in the winter. The fish want to be warm. You can find them sitting in water so shallow you can barely see their fins standing out of the water.

If fishing the bays behind Ft. Fisher, you will find them in water as shallow as 6 inches on low tide and 4.5 to 5 feet on high tide. Luke prefers fishing when the water is two feet or less in the winter. Fish 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; after the sun is up and warms the water. Target dark mud on low tide, where you will find warmer water.

Look for redfish on the edges of alcoves and on points near oyster beds; particularly an edge with a ledge that drops from 2 to 4 feet. Make 15-20 casts near the edges of the oyster beds. A red drum is an ambush predator and a bottom feeder that cruises the oyster beds in winter for food. They will be on the edge of the current ready to ambush baitfish. As the tide is rising, the fish stage in areas just outside the oyster beds.

Luke likes crab, shrimp, and mud minnow fly patterns in natural colors as opposed to chartreuse or hot orange. He is most successful using crab patterns. Even though crabs are not around in the winter, redfish like anything that moves slowly across the bottom. Black and purple are his go-to colors; other colors that work well are copper, brown, natural green, olive and white. He likes to add gold flash to his flies. A rabbit zonker, with brown chenille and yellow eyes is an excellent imitation of a mud minnow – that will catch anything. Cast about 5' ahead of the redfish; drag the fly slowly; now and then give it a little hop; then let it sit a while; and let the fish find it. Do not give the fly quick strips or twitches during the winter.

Speckled Trout

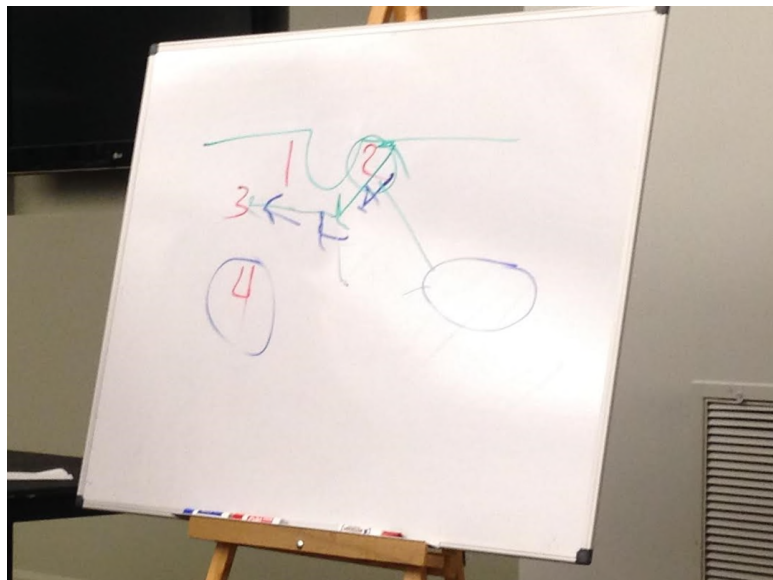
Luke prospects for speckled trout with his spinning gear and switches to fly gear after finding them. Look for trout in 4'-8' water where there are three key features: a ledge, a point, and current. The trout will be there waiting for baitfish. Trout like deep holes in the back of creeks in the wintertime.

Use a fly with some weight and a rattle, just as you would spin-fishing baits such as the MirroLure [Tiny Trout TTR](#) or [MirrOdine series](#) lures. Strip the fly slowly, letting it drop. Trout will usually hit it on the drop.

When fishing a point, the trout could be in one of four zones, including either side of the point, the current below the point, and, in some cases, an adjacent eddy. Trout may move from one area to another area every 10 minutes. You may also have to change the color and/or pattern of the fly to trigger strikes.

If casting to the point and there is a moderate current, *anchor a boat length or two*

forward of the point so you are casting above the point and letting the fly drift down past the point. This allows one to control the line and feel the bite better. This works only on



a moderate current. If the tide is strong, *anchor perpendicular to or a boat length below the point* and cast upcurrent, letting the fly drift back towards and past the point.

Trout shake their heads when caught, which Luke believes sends an alarm to other fish. He recommends holding the tip of your rod just below the surface when you hook a trout so other trout won't hear the alarm bell.

For topwater trout fishing in the fall, use [gurglers](#) with a rattler and a [zonker](#). Stop using this pattern about mid-December when the water temperature drops below 60 degrees. Buy fly-tying foam and other materials in craft stores as it is much less costly than if you purchase them in a fly shop. His motto for topwater fishing is "Don't reel until you feel" – you must wait and see the line moving out before setting the hook.

In the winter, trout will be high in the water column in the morning and will move deeper after as the sun rises. On cloudy days, they may remain high in the water column, extending the time they can be caught on topwater flies.

Trout that swim in schools range in size between 15 and 25 inches and are usually caught in 4'-8' of water. Gator trout above 25 inches are "loners" and are more often caught in 2-4' of water. Use clousers or large topwater flies for larger trout.

A moving tide is essential. Luke favors catching trout on the falling tide, although some spots may be better for fishing on a rising tide.

When fishing for winter trout, one can sometimes catch "by-catch," including flounder, black drum, and sheepshead if you allow the fly to drop to the bottom.

Rio just distributed a new [In Touch Striper](#) line designed for striper fishing that should be good for trout fishing as well. Luke fishes only Rio lines.

Luke likes [Sage One](#) fly rod, [Galvin fly reels](#) (American-made and for the budget-minded - \$300-400 for an 8-wt reel), and [Nautilus fly reels](#); he is ordering a couple of [Reddington Vapen](#) fly rod for use on his guide boat. He also recommends the [Reddington Behemoth reel](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Duncan
Secretary