



NEWSLETTER July 2020

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Preparing to cast.

Things are gradually returning to normal, not yet 100%, but getting there slowly. This month we have some articles on outings, thumbs up to the good work by three of our studious members. Thanks guys.

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
5 th Jul	Saltwater outing	Umtentweni	06h30
19 th Jul	Scalie outing	Umzimkulu River	08h30
4 th Aug	Saltwater outing	Umzimkulu Mouth	06h30
12 th Aug	Committee meeting	Sean's home	18h30

Coming Events.

With sardines all over the place and shad coming out in droves (if you are in the the right place of course,) the **'Tweni Granny Pool might just be the spot on Sunday the 5th of July.** We will not braai, but bring along a cup of coffee and a sarmie or two and enjoy some good old SCFA camaraderie.

Sunday the 19th will see us trying for scalies in the Umzimkulu. Meet at 08h30 at the Gibraltar stone wall, between Leopard Rock and Lake Eland. We will braai afterwards, so bring the essentials. Watch your phone and computer for a possible change to this outing, as the 'Kulu might not be suitable on that day. Pieter will give us the necessary guidance on this.

As meetings are still banned at this stage (last week of June) and the Ski Boat Club is out of action, it is unsure when we will have our next meeting, which will of course be the AGM. Hopefully we will be able to give you sufficient warning when this will be held.

Be at the **the Umzimkulu Mouth on Sunday 4th August.** for a saltwater outing. This area has been looking great lately, so don't miss out! Remember that David caught a nice kingy there a while back.

Fly of the Month.

The Flies of the Month for July are the Red Tag Palmer and the Maxi's Dog's Breakfast. The Dog's Breakfast is "Freestyle" i.e. colour of your choice. Recipes have been sent out to members. Flies that you should also have ready for judging are:

April: Mike's Scalie Killer and Tom's Gully fly.

May: Bibio and the Half and Half

June: Booby and the ABC (Anything But Chartreuse) Fly.

Past Events.

Saltwater outing to Trafalgar. Sunday 7th June. By Bill Derman

The planned outing for the 7th June was cancelled on 4th June due to access to the beaches being denied by our government. I am not sure what influence Arthur has in government circles, but he got the decision reversed on 6th June, so the outing could take place.

There were 9 members who braved the cool, but pleasant early morning at the beach and the weather was ideal for fly fishing. John, Arthur, Sean and Bill arrived at approximately 06h45, followed by Rob, Mitch, Stan, Steve and Sakkie. I apologize for anyone I have left out.

Arthur was first on the water and at 07h20 landed the first fish, an enormous Wave Garrick. Another 8 Wave Garrick were landed by the rest of the group, except for Bill and Rob, who couldn't add to the total, although they virtually tried every fly in their respective boxes.



Stan was the most skilled fisherman on the day, catching 3 Wave Garrick, which was the only species that was caught on this outing.

The day ended at around 10h30 with coffee and rusks in the car park, due to the absence of braai facilities. A good time was had by all.

Lockdown on the Farm and the Easter weekend. By Stephen Brand.

On the 26 of March at midnight lockdown started. Initially it was a shock to everyone and for some it still is. Laws were passed left, right and centre. There goes our Wattled Crane trip through the window; a trip I had been so looking forward to, as were the rest of us also going.

It all started before the 26th for me. At the beginning of March, I had meetings with my board of directors at the Macadamia factory and found out sometime later, that some of them had been in contact with a fellow South Coaster who had tested positive to Covid 19, but had no symptoms. He had been back in the country 3 weeks before being tested. I found out a day or so later that my colleagues had been with him after I had been with them. None of them were infected. Relieved on hearing this news, we planned for lockdown as an essential service. Educating staff was our biggest hurdle. How do you explain something we can't see? Fortunately they were fast learners but the social distancing took a while, although they have got it now. Yellow crosses on my shed floor lead to the clocking machine, spaced at around 1.5 m apart. My daughter, Belinda, pulled out the sewing machine and proceeded to put together 90 buffs in 3 days and a further 100 surgical masks, pleated, I might add, which took a few more days, at a cost of material, around R2.50 a mask, excluding labour. Government Gazette notices poured in from several platforms in the weeks preceding the 26th. Changes on a daily basis, screening all 86 staff every morning and getting them to sign that the information was correct, issuing of face shields, marking work stations, hand sanitizers and soap dispenses. Customers trying to get permits to sell bananas in the Eastern Cape, not knowing if we would have customers and taxi ranks closed, but somehow by the Grace of God it all worked out. They found new markets and created a demand. But enough of that; lets get down to the real reason why I'm writing this.

Easter weekend my staff all went home and the madness ended, albeit only for a weekend.

Friday the 10th of April, Good Friday, I went fishing. At 05h23 my alarm sounded and I slowly crawled out of bed, asking myself why I wasn't sleeping in. Now the week before I had put my back out pulling a muscle, (no not that one) so was still recovering; lucky for pain pills. I had my usual breakfast and loaded my van with kick boat, pontoons, rods, reels, flies and a flask of coffee. Oh, and my deck chair. Arriving at the dam, I found Mike already set up. I parked on the wall, pulled out my chair and sat and watched as the day unfolded with a cup of coffee. The bird life was too beautiful, with the sun creeping over the trees throwing shadows over the water, as I waited for the sun to lick the water. Shortly after sunrise we got onto the water. The water was surprisingly warm and the fish were jumping in the reeds near the bank. I decided to use a Popper fly a friend had given me, but they kept missing it and so I put on a Damsel and during the course of the morning I caught 5 bass and was feeling rather chuffed with myself, meanwhile Mike had tallied up 10 bass.

With all the excitement, we planned to be back on Sunday and were going to braai. Mike was going to fix his pontoons as they had developed a leak. Saturday I decided to tie a Dragon Fly. Olive green turned out to be a winner on Sunday. Unfortunately the more Mike repaired his pontoons, the more leaks developed, so new ones are on the cards soon. Sunday came and we were down at the dam early; me on my kick boat and Mike wading in to his chest to get past the weeds and lilies. Armed with my newly tied Dragon Fly, I set off around the dam from the spill-way in an anti-clockwise direction. First cast I was on. Working along the wall for about 3 hours, I hadn't gone far, but had clocked up a total of 18 bass; all much the same size: 15- 20 cm. Mike convinced me to change my fly and try some special fly he had called a Sex Dragon. Well, I caught one and then lost the fly, much to Mike's disgust, but managed to catch one more on my desecrated Dragon and then it fell apart, as I was unhooking the fish. We ended our morning with a lovely braai, fishing tales and an ice cold Castle. Lockdown continued.

Sean and Duane spent a day the following weekend I think and clocked up a few fish, but they won't tell me how many. I think they are keeping it a secret. I'm sure the catch register will tell a story. Jaco and his wife also spent a day in Level 3 at the dam and managed to tag a few fish. 8 in total. He used Woolly Buggers that he tied himself. So all in all my dam has produced.



Trout outing to Wattled Crane. Friday 19th to Monday 21st June. By Mitch Rorich.

A group of 9 club members, John, Stan, Arthur, Neil, Sean, Sakkie, Steve, Liam and Mitch, travelled to the venue early on Friday morning the 19th, arriving in time for a good morning session on the water. What a wonderful escape from lockdown !!

The weather for the most part was excellent, allowing for ample angling time, with only a few gusty hours to be endured.

Angling in 9 degree water produced 62 trout in total ranging from 1.2 kg. to a beauty of 2.9 kg, caught by Sean on day 2. A number of hen fish, heavily in spawn and most cock fish were returned for another day. The cock fish do not suffer the egg problem and therefore should with time, become the larger specimens.

Sean, Stan and Liam were the most successful of the outing with 21, 15, and 10 trout respectively with the rest of the bunch trailing somewhat behind, but totally satisfied with their results. Flies used, included Speed Cops, Black Woolly and Silly Buggers, Green Nymphs, Red Eyed Damsels, the inimitable Papa Roach and a DDD produced results, fished primarily in the upper, shallower reaches of the water, adjacent to vegetation.

Special mention should be made regarding the provision of the excellent meals, prepared beforehand and brought from home. This arrangement proved most satisfactory and a special thanks to those members and their spouses for their effort! Providing meals for 9 hungry bodies "don't come easy!!!"

The chilly East Griqualand evenings saw the group off the water reasonably early for the comfort of a large fire in the cottage and the morning start was later than usual.

Not much more to add but a pic. or two of the fish caught, would be appreciated. The group fished the Monday morning until 11am. before packing for home, to make up for some time lost due to a windy Sunday afternoon.

Thanks everyone for a wonderful outing. Mitch.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Members are reminded that subs were due in March, but this year you have been given some grace due to the lockdown. Don't forget to bring your bucks to the first meeting, (whenever that will be) or pay Steve direct when you see him.

Last Cast.

Any further contribution from me will definitely be a case of "After the Lord Mayor's show" thanks to the excellent articles from Bill, Steve and Mitch. Thanks guys, stay safe and continue fishing in both the salt and freshwater." Hope to see a good crowd at "Tweni on the 5th July.

Cheers Arthur.

