



## South Coast Fly Anglers



# NEWSLETTER June 2021

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**Chairman:** John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistowe (082 453 8618)  
**Liaison and Records Clerk:** Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005) **Scribe:** Arthur Cary (039 681 3274) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

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### Preparing to cast.

We once again have a varied and interesting calendar for this month, that will, hopefully suit all members. Be there for them all.

### Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Committee meeting	Neil's home	18h00
4 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Saltwater outing	St Lucia	TBA
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Flytying Workshop	Sean's home	18h15 for 18h30
11 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	Early
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Monthly meeting	Tweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Scalie outing	Umzimkulu River	08h00

### Coming Events.

If members have any suggestions for a fishing trip, please contact a committee member before the 2<sup>nd</sup> so that it can be discussed at the **committee meeting at Neil's home this coming Wednesday.**

As mentioned in the e-mail that was sent out to members, two weeks ago, Neil has a **St Lucia - Cape Vidal trip planned for 4<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> June.** Accommodation is at his time share in St Lucia. Contact him now if you would like to go. (083 265 6608)

Fly tying is at Sean's home, as Neil will be in St Lucia. FotM for June are the freshwater Serendipity and the saltwater Macaroni Fly. Members should have received recipes and photos by the time that you get this newsletter.

The **Grub'nTravel meeting for the Wattled Crane trip was held after the monthly meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.** This trout trip is from **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June.** Mitch, John, Neil, Dick, Dean and Arthur are in on this one. Dick and Dean will travel with Neil, while John and Mitch will risk the trip with Arthur. meet at Paddock at 06h30 on Friday morning, 11<sup>th</sup> June

The **monthly meeting will be at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June.** Braai afterwards.

Hopefully the 'Kulu stays clean for the **Scalie outing on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June.** Meet at the stone wall past Leopard Rock on the way to Lake Eland at 08h00. Bring R 40.00 rod fee plus meat for a braai and your liquid refreshments.

### In the longer term.

As promised, the Orange River trip is taking shape. We will leave on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, travel to Plato Lodge in the Upington / Kakamas area and return on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. You will get some change from R 7000.00 for accommodation, meals and fuel. Drinks will be extra of course. Fishing for the best part of 4 days, will be from the banks of the river and from kickboats. This trip is fully booked, with Neil, John, Pieter, Steve, Sean, Mike, Kevin and Arthur filling the spots. Neil will require a deposit of R 1000.00 before mid June.

### Past Events.

**Saltwater outing. Southport / Sea Park. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May.** By Rob Nicholas.

Present: John, Arthur, Bill, Warren, Rob, Sean, Steve, Ken, David and Marion.

We met in the turning circle at the end of Ocean Drive South in Southport and then hit the beach.

The weather was fair with a slight SW wind which unfortunately, as the morning wore on, became stronger. We covered an area from the north end of what is known by locals as Shelly Beach, to the south end of Evan's Bay, probably one to one and a half kilometres in length.



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We packed up at about 09h30, as the wind had picked up considerably by then. A short chat in the turning circle and then home.

Only two Moonies were caught, one by Ken and the other by Sean - both at the southern end of Evan's Bay.

The sea was reasonable, with the odd heavy set coming through, making rock fishing a bit dicey - ask John, who got his fly line tangled and eventually broken in the rocks.

**Outing to the Mbizana Estuary. Ramsgate/ Southbroom. Sunday May 21st.** By David Schwartz.

When the Schwartz family arrived at the estuary at about 06h45 John, Arthur and Steve were already there. John and Arthur had set up their kick boats and Steve was already fishing in the surf. Dick, Rob, Kevin and Warren arrived soon after. David, Ken and Rob started to set up their gear for fishing the estuary. Dick, Kevin and Warren headed for the surf.

Conditions in the estuary looked really good and we all hoped for some real action. John, Arthur and Rob went a long way upstream. They kept a good lookout but did not spot any crocs! David and Ken went as far as the well known fishing spot at the rocks on the Southbroom bank. Dick had found the going in the surf tough for lefties and decided to fish the estuary from the edge of the sandbank on the Southbroom side. Despite the apparent good conditions fishing the estuary was not very successful. John caught a juvenile kingfish and Ken a river gurnard. No success for the other fly fishermen. There were two bait fishermen on the rocks who caught some small rock salmon.

In the surf Kevin caught two wave garrick and Warren a stone bream. Steve was unsuccessful. Apparently Mitch also fished the surf but no one seems to know how he got on.

Afterwards John, Arthur, Rob, David and Ken had a bit of breakfast (Lion Lager sandwich for Rob) and as usual tried to solve the mysteries of successful fly fishing.

**A short trip to Umngazi River Bungalows. 24th to 27th May.** By Arthur Cary.

John and Arthur decided that it was time that Lyn and June had some time off from their normal cooking chores, so a short stay at the Umngazi River Bungalows was booked. The boys decided that it was also their duty to spend some "quality time" with the girls, fishing tackle would be left at home!!!!!!!

The ladies heard of this and had other ideas; they certainly did not want two old ballies mooching around them all day, so unbeknown to John and Arthur, the girls packed the fishing tackle: kick boats, appropriate flies, spare rods, reels, leaders and tippets: the whole kaboodle. The men were astounded to find that nothing had been left out, when they unpacked the truck at Umngazi.

Only to please the girls of course, they did fish: in fact, they fished hard; both in the river and in the surf, but apart from a very positive start on the first morning, when John got 4 Wave Garrick in quick succession from the surf, things were very quiet. John also got a small kingy on the 3rd evening in the river. Arthur caught his normal zero, despite conditions being near perfect for most of the time.

There was a lot of action in the river, as was evidenced from various small chases, but we could not entice what ever was doing the chasing. The editor of "The Mission" fly fishing magazine, Tudor Caradoc-Davies, up from Cape Town, caught a nice Garrick in the river using a Crease Fly, so it shows that the fish were there, but difficult to entice to the hook. ( Professor Google shows the Crease Fly as a popper with a foam body, that is super-glued into place.) Simple, but obviously effective.

Umngazi River Bungalows is a superb hotel on the banks of the Umngazi River, just south of Port St Johns. Magnificent setting, breakfast, lunch and dinner fit for royalty, comfortable beds, in fact everything that one could wish for and pretty reasonable to top it off. One slight drawback is the condition of the road to Lusikisiki, after that, it is not too bad, except for the 10 km of dirt from the main road down to the coast. Distance from Port Shepstone 260 km. We will be back and we may even condesend to the girls packing our tackle again!!!!!!!

**Monthly Meeting. Thursday 27th May. Umtentweni Tennis Club.**

**Present.** 19 members. **Apologies.** Ken, David, Liam. **Visitor.** Mike Angove.

**Flies of the Month. Freshwater: Egg Sucking Leach:** Dean, Neil, Sean, Neil, Arthur.

**Saltwater: Natal Half Beak:** Arthur, Sean, Neil, Neil.



**General.**

**Dick and Neil** fished the Rhodes Festival last month and Dick gave a brief account of the weeks festivities. A really worthwhile experience, by all accounts. (See his report in last month's newsletter.)

**Pat**, who has been a member since 2008, gave us the unwelcome news that he is relocating to Cape Town on 21st June. We will miss you Pat, but will keep you posted of our goings-on.

**Sean** mentioned that he has Googled a number of spots in the Underberg area, that look very promising. Among these are Glenhaven, Coleford and St Bernard. Members were of the general opinion that St Bernard's is not what it used to be, as it is doubtful if this dam is being stocked, since the hatchery below the wall closed a number of years ago. John cautioned that a number of these venues charge a flat rate for accommodation and if all the beds are not filled, it turns out to be quite expensive. It is doubtful if SCFA could field a team of 8 on such a trip.

**Warren** announced, to cheers, that he out-fished Sean on Ramsgate saltwater outing, when he caught a Stone Bream. Sean was not amused, as he has yet to add this species to his list..

**Stan** has had two recent trips to Mountain Lake, catching 20 and 17 rainbows respectively; many of the fish were over the two kg mark and extremely strong. The road from Matat. is still in very poor condition however and the cottage is still not available since it was vandalised a while ago.

**Steve** mentioned that club funds are at an all time high and sponsorship of an up-coming club trip is very much on the cards.

**Catch and release. Will your catch survive when it is released???** By Arthur Cary.

**Warning: If you have tender toes, please wear steel-capped boots when you read this.**

This article is not aimed at any person or at any group of anglers in particular, but at the same time targets everyone equally. It does not set out to offend anyone and does not intend to portray the author as being "holier-than thou," as he too has been guilty of transgressing some of the "rules" given below. If a reader is offended, maybe an examination of personal conscience and a revision of personal techniques would be a good idea.

While sitting watching a recent documentary on tiger fishing in the Okavongo, presented by a well known personality, it dawned on me that a particularly large specimen was being held out of the water for an extraordinary long time, while photos were taken. Full frontal views, three-quarter views, followed by full side-on shots and then a couple showing off the impressive tail. The session did not end there! The fish was briefly dunked into the water, before the photographic session started again, I held my breath and started counting. After 25 seconds I was beginning to get a wee bit stressed and gave up at 35 seconds. Poor Mr Tiger was still out of the water. Our presenter finally announced that it was time to "Safely release this magnificent specimen, so that he can fight another day." The fish was then pushed and pulled through the water a few times, before the Bo Go-Grip was released and the fish swam slowly away. "To fight another day?" Probably not, but probably to sink to the bottom of the river and die a slow death. This prompted me to pay a visit to Professor Google and ask a few questions. There are thousands of "Catch and Release" sites that can be viewed and I only visited a few. All seemed to have a common thread running through them.

**1. Keep the fight short.**

The longer the fight, the less are the chances of the fish surviving. Use as heavy a rod, leader and tippet as possible. Anglers can brag that "this 3.6 kg beauty was caught on a 3 wt Orvis, using a 5 x tippet! Took all of 5 minutes to land him. Here is the pic that I took. Battled a bit to revive him, but he eventually swam away." The jury is out on whether a fish will survive after that sort of treatment.

**2. Keep the fish out of the water for as short a period as possible.**

Preferably, do not remove the fish from the water at all. One web site stated that if a fish is not removed from the water, it has an 88% chance of surviving, 30 seconds out of the water reduces this to 62% and 60 seconds out of the water reduces the survival rate to only 28%. If a net is used it should be knotless, the rubber types are said to be the best.



Another site suggests that when you remove the fish from the water, hold your breath. When you need air, the fish probably needs water! Try holding your breath, after having run 300 to 400 metres and see how comfortable you feel after half a minute! If you are going to take a photo of your catch, make sure that your camera and photographer are ready, before you remove the fish from the water.

### 3. **Holding the fish.**

Most of the sites pay a lot of attention to the position that the fish is held for display, when photos are taken. Zero pressure must be applied to the abdomen and gills, as there is no skeletal protection in these delicate areas and internal organs are very easily damaged by the slightest pressure. Don't under any circumstances squeeze the fish, especially around the abdomen and gills. Don't stick your fingers into the gills and don't "lip-land" your catch, especially any specimen over 1.5 kg.

All sites encouraged anglers to wet their hands before handling a fish. Less protective slime is removed from the body of the fish, when handled with wet hands.

### 4. **Revival.**

If a fish has to be revived, it should be held with one hand supporting the gill area and one hand holding the tail. In running water, face the fish upstream and allow the water to run through the gills. In a still water do not "swish" the fish backwards and forwards in the water. Pulling a fish backwards, damages the delicate gills.

From the little that I have read, I realise that the survival rate of a released fish also depends on a number of factors other than those listed above, some of which are given below.

Species are not equally "tough " and some revive more readily than others. Condition of the specimen is also a major factor influencing survival, while the temperature of the water is also a crucial factor. Generally the cooler the water the better are the chances of survival. Whatever can be done to improve the survival rate, should be introduced into one's release-technique.

Lets have some comments on the subject of Catch and Release, especially from the many anglers who are better informed than am I. All articles will be printed in forthcoming editions of the newsletter

### **Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



Despite the encouraging reports in our local papers that the sardine run is "imminent" there was little excitement from the Umngazi area at the end of May. Arthur and John saw one pod of dolphins heading south, but no evidence of gannets or a feeding frenzy of sharks and dolphins.



In the May/June edition of The Mission magazine, there is an article on fly fishing off a float tube for kob in False Bay. Pat, we look forward to an article on your adventures into this sport, when you have settled into the rush of Cape Town life!!

### **Last Cast.**

My arm and fingers are tired from casting and from typing, so you are all let off having to read any more of my blurb. See you on the water.

Cheers Arthur

