



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER November 2023

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)

Preparing to cast.

As the year draws to a close, it is a case of “the last workshop,” “the last meeting” and then “the last outing of 2023.” Keep in the loop by attending all of these events. This will however, not be the last newsletter, as a short note will go out in December. If you have any news of a private outing, please drop me a line. Arthur.

Events Calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
1st November	Committee meeting	Steve's home	18h00
4th-5th November	Trout outing	Matatiele. Mountain Lake	TBD
8th November	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
20th November	Travel & grub meeting	Neil's home	18h00
24th to 27th November	Trout outing	Silver streams	TBD
30th November	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	1800 for 18h30
3rd December	Year-end Bass outing	Steve's dam or Impenjati	Early

Coming Events.

The **Trout trip to Matatiele on Friday 4th and 5th of November**, is actually the Matat. Annual Trout Compo. Not many takers for this one, but if you are a late, but keen starter, contact Sean immediately. (079 434 6168.)

The last **fly-tying workshop of the year is again at Neil's home on Wednesday 8th November**. We will be tying the Grunter Charlie and the Jacaranda. John and Steve proved that this fly was very effective in catching bass at Voigt's Dam in early October. Trout find this fly to their liking as well, as was proved in late October. (See article below.) Members should have received the recipes for these by the time that this newsletter is received.

The **Grub and travel meeting for the trout trip to Silver Streams, is at Neil's home on Monday 20th November**. Eight members have shown an interest in going on this outing, so please attend to ensure that your culinary needs are met. SCFA are generously sponsoring the camping fees for this trip. Thank you very much.

On **Friday 24th November, we leave for the extended week-end-camping-trout-trip to Silver Streams.**

The **last meeting of the year is at the Umtentweni Tennis Club, on Thursday 30th November**. As usual, Steve will get the fire roaring for the after-meeting braai and social chinwag.

Depending on the weather and condition of the water, **the End-of-Year-Function, (EoYF) will either be held at Steve's Dam or at Impenjati on Sunday 3rd December**. As usual, there will be a BYO braai after the fishing. Entrance to Impenjati is R 15.00 per person and it would be wise to have your fishing licence handy, just in case DAFF put in an unexpected and very rare appearance. The EoY function is always an enjoyable outing, with family members joining the anglers, so let's have a good turn-out, whichever venue is selected. (Keep an eye open for Steve's advisory SMS.)

Past Events.

Bass outing to Voigt's Dam. Sunday 7th October. By Arthur Cary.

Wise thinking by Steve and John, resulted in the proposed salt-water outing to Mzamba, being altered to a Voigt's Dam-bass outing. Various forecasts showed that the weather on the coast was going to be decidedly iffy on the Sunday. *(The 35 km/hr wind did not materialise until later in the day, but the persistent cool drizzle would have made conditions on the coast, very unpleasant indeed.)*



Past Events cont'd on Page 2.

As it was, only John, Steve and Arthur pitched up. Skies were grey and the temperature was slightly on the cool side of pleasant, but nothing that a few layers of clothing did not overcome.

The water was clean, but the dam is very heavily weeded with water lilies, which brought forth a few curses, when one of the unforgiving stems was inadvertently hooked by a wayward cast. Steve's SMS warning that, "fishing from the bank would be challenging" was in fact, totally correct. The water lilies extend for a good 10 to 15 metres from the bank all around the dam and retrieving through that mass is virtually impossible.

John quickly found that the key to the bass nursery was a small nymph pattern and it was only when he changed to a Green Jacaranda, that he added larger specimens to his score. He finished with a total of 29 fish.

Steve used a purple Jacaranda to good effect and landed 5 decent sized fish. (*The Jacaranda is the FotM for November.*) Arthur got 4 on a Black Woolly Bugger. No fish were taken on the surface. While the bigger fish would not have pulled a scale to the 1 kg mark, they were certainly really strong fish. It is also good to see that there are also a good number of juveniles to replace these mature fish.

As has been the case on previous outings to this water, the western side of the dam was far more productive than the eastern shoreline; this, despite both sides being equally well weeded.

Our timing in getting off the water was spot on, as there was a short sharp shower shortly after we had stowed our gear in the vehicles and had settled down for a quick braai. Once again, a very pleasant morning. To those who did not make it "Sorry you lost."

A mid-week trout trip to Wattled Crane. Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th October. By Arthur Cary.

Arthur, accompanied by his grandson, Adrian and his girlfriend, Julia, (Adrian's girlfriend, not Arthur's!!!!!!!) recently spent a couple of days up at Wattled Crane. The road from the farm to the dam is as rough as ever and due to the copious rains that the area has received, was a tad on the slippery side, but fortunately, the services of a tow-tractor were not required. Sakkie will be glad to hear that James has eliminated all the bek-slaaner gates as have many of those rickety ones that are normally closed. The dam is as full as I have ever seen it and was running out at least half a metre over the spillway, when we arrived.

Fishing was tough, with the usual calm mornings, but at 10 am the easterly would come through with a vengeance; except, of course, on the day that we left; the water was still ripple-free when we departed, at 11 am. We finished off with 13 fish, ranging from strong stockies to a decent fish of 2,5 kg. Successful flies included: Mrs Simpson, Woolly Bugger, Jacaranda, Papa Roach and Walkers Killer. Catering was understandably not up to Neil's standard, but nevertheless, a great trip.

Monthly Meeting. Thursday 26th October 2023. Umtentweni Tennis Club.

Present: 12 members. **Apologies:** Stan, Sakkie, Rob, Kevin, Conner, Mike K, David. **Visitors:** Adrian Zajac.

Flies of the Month: Judged by Liam

Saltwater: Glassy Minnow: Sean, Mitch, Sean, Arthur, John, John, Mitch.

Freshwater: Para RAB: Neil, Sean, Sean, Arthur.

Finances: Steve reported that there had been no change to the finances, which still stand at "Excellent."

General.

Arthur gave a short account of his mid-week trip to Wattled Crane. (See report above.)

He also reported on a list of 16 books that have been donated to the club by John Neaves on behalf of the late Pieter Viljoen. (John is not a member and during his life time, neither was Pieter, so South Coast Fly Anglers are extremely grateful for this donation, which has been facilitated by Dick.) The books will be auctioned to raise club funds. (See list below.)

A second library of books, donated by Dick, is also listed below in the Fry, Fingerling and Stockie section. These will also be up for auction. Dick will have some of both lists available for viewing at the November meeting. All books are in excellent condition and many of these are classics in their own right.



Mike reported that he and Toi had spent a few days up in the Nottingham Road area, prior to fishing the Underberg Festival. Although their total tally will not add to the club Catch Record Book, they did hook a couple of big fish, that proved to be too wily and they found safety in the prolific weed patches that abounded in the dam.

Fishing the Festival also proved to be tough as they unfortunately picked the wrong dams at the wrong time. Mike also discovered that although Thomas and Thomas fly rods can withstand a lot of punishment from a big fish, the rear door of a Toyota Fortuna is even tougher and the uneven contest resulted in the magnificent tip of his rod, being converted into two lengths of useless graphite. T&T will however hopefully come to the rescue. *(Mike, the Master at Arms has noted your mishap with glee. Start saving up for the AGM. Ed.)* The trip was, however not totally in vain, as both Mike and Toi came home with goodie bags stuffed full of loot, among which were two vouchers from Xplorer. A visit to this extensive shop in Durban, however proved to be extremely frustrating to them, as there was too much from which to choose and they bought nothing. *(Xplorer, it seems as though you will have to drastically reduce your stock, in order to please Mike. Ed!!)*

Liam is off back to the Seychelles for another 6 months of guiding. We wish your clients tight lines Liam and as you battle those brutes up north, spare a thought for us old ballies back in the fishless waters of KZN,

Steve reported that due to the recent heavy rains on the coast, his dam is pretty murky at present. Whether it will clean up before the end-of-year function at the beginning of December, is at the moment unclear, so wait for his SMS.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Sincere condolences are extended to Steve, Olga, Shannon and Belinda on the passing of Steve's mother on Saturday morning.



Along with all other services in the country, the "cleaning fee" for Wattled Crane has been increased. It is now R 300.00, irrespective of the length of your stay. I know it is a bit steep, but at least we are assured of a clean cottage when we get there. The daily rate remains at R 300.00 per person.



As promised, here is the list of books that have been donated by John Neaves on behalf of the late Pieter Viljoen of Southbroom.

The intention is to auction these at the Year-End Function. (See Coming Events on Page 1.)

No.	Title	Published	Authors	Topic
1	The Little Red Book of Flyfishing-hardcopy	2010	Deeter & Meyers	250 tips
2	FOSAF-The Nedbank Guide to Flyfishing Venues in Southern Africa, 2 nd edition-paperback	1998	various	Venues
3	Trout Trails, revisited-hardcopy	1991	Malcolm Meintjes	Venues & anecdotes
4	Trout on the Veld-hardcopy	1983	Malcolm Meintjes	Instructional
5	Stalking Trout-paperback	1989	Hill & Marshall	Instructional
6	Trout Fishing-paperback	1988	Brian Furzer	Instructional
7	Incredible Fishing Stories-paperback	1994	Shaun Morey	Stories
8	Fundamental Flyfishing techniques for SA-paperback	1998	Mark Yelland	Instructional



No	Title	Published	Authors	Topic
9	Slackline Strategies. – Hardcopy	1994	John Judy	Instructional
10	Longer Fly Casting. Paperback	1994	Lefty Kreh	Instructional
11	African Flyfishing Handbook.	1997	Bill Hansford Steele	Instructional
12	Stillwater trout in SA. Hardcopy	2004	Dean Riphagen	Instructional
13	The Southerby's Guide to Flyfishing : for Trout.	1997	Charles jardine	Instructional
14	The Complete book of Trout : Fly fishing. Hardcopy	1994	Goran Cederberg	Instructional
15	Classic Flyfishing Waters of the world.	1993	Goran Cederberg	Venues of the World
16	Flyfishing in Southern Africa.	1993	Robert Brandon-Kirby	Venues and anecdotes

Books for Auction- SCFA- donated by Dick Plaistowe

No.	Title	Published	Authors	Topic
1	FOSAF Flyfishing destinations in Southern Africa & the Indian Ocean - paperback	1998	Louis Wolhuter	Destinations, fish species, techniques
2	Bass fishing in Southern Africa- hardcopy	1986	Charles Norman	Instruction & destinations
3	The suggestive flyfisher- hardcopy	1987	Malcolm Meintjes	A classic treatise on Flyfishing
4	Fresh water fishing in Southern Africa - hardcopy	1987	Michael Salomon	Instructional
5	Trout Trails of the Transvaal 2 nd edition - skinny paperback	1987/8	Malcolm Meintjes	A bit of everything, verging on Afrikaner it's so dated

As you see, there are some fine titles in this lot. Let's hope that you can find something that will find a place in your library.

Last Cast.

Nothing more for me to add, except to wish all members "Tight lines" if and when the current miserable weather clears and you manage to wet a line. Hope to see a good turn-out at all the forthcoming meetings and outings.

Cheers Arthur.

