



# NEWSLETTER November 2021

**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.

Check out the Events Calendar and pick the events that you would like to attend. Actually, a better idea would be to attend them all.

## Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Barbel outing	Lake Eland	07h00
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Fly tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas outing	Steve's dam	Early
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Committee meeting	Arthur's home	18h00
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Salt water outing	Umtwalume	07h00
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Bass outing	Oasis Dam. Paddock	07h00

## Coming Events.

The proposed camping week-end to **Lake Eland from 6th to 7th November, has been changed to a day trip on Sunday 7th only, due to costs.** There is a R75.00 entrance cost. Gates open at 07h00. Meet at the bottom dam, where we will braai afterwards, so bring what you need.

The **Fly tying workshop is at Neil's home on Wednesday 10th November.** We will tie the Teal and Red freshwater fly and the saltwater Dead Shrimp Charlie.

The **'Tweni Tennis Club is the venue for the monthly meeting on Thursday 25th November.** John Neaves will conclude his talk on his world-wide fly fishing experiences. Braai afterwards, as usual. Don't miss this!!!!!!

The **Christmas outing will again be held at Steve's dam on Sunday 28th November.** The fire will be provided, but bring all that you need to eat and drink. The ladies will join us from about 10h00.

## Past Events.

### Outing to Voight's Dam Sunday 3rd October. By Sean Tharratt

Sean and John were the only guys to brave the overcast and cool weather to wet a line in Voight's dam. We fished till almost mid-day and managed a few fish, but not as many as outings normally produce. Mitch drove in late morning, sat in his bakkie for a few minutes and drove off again. Later morning the wind died off a bit and it got a bit warmer but the fishing did not improve.

**Sean:** 10 bass on an Olive Fitz Bugger. **John:** 5 bass

### Outing to Gordon Smith's dam. By Sean Tharratt

I haven't been to this dam since earlier in the year and knew with the recent amount of rain, the water would be a lot dirtier, which didn't bother me, as with this dam, one must fish dark flies and even in dirty water, one can still catch.

I threw a black baitfish pattern on a sinking line for a while with no bites. The wind picked up, which was a bit of a pain, but I still kept fishing. At the far end of the dam, there was a small bay, that was sheltered from the wind and had some reeds, so I took a chance and threw a small flipper. After a few throws I saw a small splash and set the hook and I was on.. The fish swam towards me and I thought "It's a small one" until it did a slow-motion jump right in front of me and saw it was a lot bigger. After a few runs towards the reeds and another jump I managed to bring it to the net. A nice healthy bass weighing in at 2.18 kg which is a new personal best on fly for me. That was the only bite for the session even though I fished till mid day.



**Carp outing to the BBS dam in Southport. Sunday 16th October.** By Arthur Cary.

A good turn-out of 9 members, plus visitor Dave Lambley, met at the Southport garage, from where we were escorted to the dam by one of the BBS Angling Club members. The dirt road is navigable by a passenger vehicle, if care is taken over the rough sections. We were impressed by the amount of work that has been done at the dam by members of the club; verges cut well back, beats are neatly marked and there are tables, benches and a braai available. A few indigenous trees have been left at strategic places and these provide adequate shade. While one can fish 80% of the water from the banks, use of a kick boat will enable one to get to the areas that definitely hold the most fish!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The dam apparently has barbel, tilapia, carp and bass. Water was warm to the touch and although discoloured, was certainly not unfishable.

Having said that, the fly anglers did not do very well at all. Warren and Sean were the only two to record a success with tilapia. Warren got one on a Hopper pattern, while Sean used a PTN to catch his. John, Mitch, Conner, Rob, Kevin, Steve and Arthur blanked. (Ian, who had arranged the outing was reportedly away in the Greytown area. The Master at Arms will get to hear of this, which will please Treasurer Steve no end!!)

BBS club member, Fanus, finished off with a total of 23 carp, one barbel and one tilapia, while Dave managed to land 5 carp and one tilapia. Not sure what concoction these "pap gooiers" were using, but it was certainly more effective than our odourless flies.

A few questions spring to mind in this regard: is a half chewed cob of sweet corn, discarded into a dam, considered to be "littering" or "chumming?" In fly fishing circles, is it illegal to "accidentally and unknowingly" impale a dropped pip of said cob on the back cast and then catch a fish? Alternatively, would a Woolly Bugger be more effective for carp if it happened to land in a open bowl of chilli and brown onion soup again on the back cast, (again "accidentally and unknowingly" of course.) Just wondered. Maybe.....No don't even think of going there!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you to BBS members, Rob and Fanus for making us feel most welcome. We will be back. Without the sweet corn and chilli and brown onion soup!!!!

**Trout outing to Wattled Crane. Monday 25th to Thursday 28th October.** By John New.

Dick had suggested a mid-week trip up to Wattled Crane in October, which he could not attend, due to a medical problem.

Stan, Mitch, Arthur and John went up. The weather forecast did not look good, but you can't organize it in advance unfortunately.

We arrived on the Monday morning to an overcast sky and with a cool breeze blowing. We saw that the veranda was damp due to the mist, so tried to leave as little as possible outside.

We assembled kick boats and got down to some fishing, of which we had a few hours, before the wind drove us off the water.

The wind and mist was with us all night, but the next morning it was flat with fish rising all over. The mist was still around, but we managed some fishing, before the wind and mist again drove us off the water for the rest of the day. The wind was a real pain, too strong to kick against, although Arthur did try a lot harder than the rest of us.

The next morning, after a night of wind, rain and mist, did not look good to fish. Arthur and Stan tried, but soon got the message, "Fishing was out of the question." We sat around all day, waiting for the wind to drop, but it did not happen.

We were now worried that we might not get out the next morning, due to the wet and muddy road, so phoned Cathy via June, to have a tractor on stand-by, the next morning to pull us out if necessary. Due to load shedding, the phone system was a nightmare. *(It so happened that the fresh wind on Thursday morning, dried the road out so quickly, that it was a breeze getting up the hill adjacent to the centre pivot fields Ed)*

Thursday dawned overcast, but the wind had not started yet. Stan, Art and myself were soon on the water, but after an hour, the wind started to get stronger, so we decided to pack it in.

Stan caught 8 fish, some in the 2 kg area; it was guesswork, because he dropped his scale in the water!! John caught 5 and Mitch and Arthur caught 4 each. The flies used were Montana, Black and Brown Woolly Buggers, Mrs Simpsons, PTN and a Black Eyed Damsel. All the fish were big, with only a few stockies caught. It may have been different, if we had been able to fish for longer. The dam was fuller than it was since I was last there and the weed banks seemed to have died off a bit, but there again, fishing time was limited, due to the wind, so we will just have to go again sometime to see how the dam produces.



**Monthly meeting. 'Tweni Tennis Club. Thursday 25th October.**

**Present:** 18 members. **Apologies:** Liam, Ken, David, Sakkie and of course Pat, who has relocated to Cape Town.  
**Visitor:** John Neaves.

**Flies of the Month Competition.** Judged by Dean.

**Saltwater: Gotcha:** Dick, Sean, Arthur and Neil.

**Freshwater: Matuka:** Neil, Dick, Sean, Arthur and Sean.

**General.**

Instead of the normal meeting, visitor John Neaves, ex Johannesburg, now resident in Southbroom, gave us a talk on his world wide fly fishing experiences. His travels have covered visits to coastal areas in the Western and Eastern Cape, Rhodes, Mtentu, Kozi Bay, Mozambique, the Seychelles, Sterkfontein and Katze Dams, the Vaal and the Orange Rivers (for yellowfish,) as well as the Zambezi and Chobe Rivers for tiger fish and other species. Overseas trips included visits to Australia, South America and Cuba. His advice is to prepare well for any trip. Read all you can and get your tackle into top shape before you leave. He strongly recommends employing a guide for any area with which you are unfamiliar, as a good one will put you onto fish immediately, instead of one struggling to find fish, while using inappropriate techniques and flies.

John classifies himself as a "species man" not a "numbers man" and his excellent slides certainly bear this out. He has caught huge numbers of species, while his fish are also massive. His record tarpon is a brute of over 120 lb!!!!

Tackle consists of a 10 wt. rod for fishing the surf and the flats, while he uses 80 to 100 lb breaking strain line on his 12 wt. rod for "the bigger fish!!"

He will conclude his talk at next month's meeting on 25th November. Don't miss this, as the quality of his slides is excellent and his ready wit and entertaining style of delivery, are certainly a delight to listening to.

**A trip to Mountain Lake. Saturday 30th October to Sunday 31st October.** Info from Dean..

Dean, his wife Heidi and friends, Jack and Claudia took a quick trip to Mountain Lake at the end of October and managed 19 rainbows, all in the region of 2 to 2.8 kg. The most successful flies were a White Death and Olive and Black Woolly Buggers. It would appear that the area has not had any summer heat yet, as the weed in the dam is still very sparse and the water temperature is still on the cool side of "normal"

The weather did not entirely play ball for the group, as on Saturday they could only fish for about 2 hours before they were forced off by rain and cold. Sunday was a beautiful day and they made the most of it, catching all their fish in the few hours before they packed up for the trip home.

While the dirt road to the lake, cannot be classified as "Good," it can be negotiated in a vehicle with high clearance. The cottage is however unsurprisingly, still in a shocking condition!!!

Dean reports that the lake is soon to be stocked and will then be closed until the end of February, in order to give the fish time to settle in. **Final score : Dean 11, Heidi 3, Jack 5 and Claudia 2.**

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**

 As was explained in an e-mail to members, ex-member, Richard Ross, has had to give up fly fishing and has relocated to East London. The fishing and fly tying tackle that he donated to the club has been selling like hot cakes and to date has raised over R 1000.00 and counting. There is still a large amount of fly tying material available, so if you phone John now, (078 203 4549) you may be lucky and find what you require. Richard, a massive "Thank you" from SCFA and from the members who benefitted from your generous donation. We wish you well in your new venture and please keep in touch.

**Last cast.**

Fortunately for all readers, there is little space left for any more of my babble, so it is a case of cheers and hope to see you at Lake Eland on Sunday, at fly tying on the 10th, at the meeting on the 25th and at Steve's dam for the Christmas outing on Sunday 28th.

Cheers Arthur.

