



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER July 2021

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Preparing to cast.

Your committee has once again come up with the goods and we have a full calendar available, all the way to beyond the end of August. Included in the outings, is one to Valley Lakes in the Underberg area. I cannot recall the club visiting this venue before. Looks great on Google and Jaco and Sean report that it is a magnificent stretch of water.

Thanks to Laurence Davies for his thoughts on last month's note on "Catch and Release."

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
4 th Jul	Saltwater outing	Impenjati	Early
14 th Jul	Fly tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
25 th Jul	Saltwater outing	Marina Beach	Early
29 th Jul	Monthly meeting	Tweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
4 th August	Fly tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
11 th August	Committee meeting	Dick's home	18h00
9 th August	Grub'n travel meeting	Buchaneer's resuturant	18h00
13 th to 15 th August	Trout outing	Valley Lakes	TBA
20 th to 27 th August	Saltwater outing	St Lucia & Cape Vidal	TBA
26 th August	Monthly meeting	Tweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

There is a **salt water outing to Impenjati on the 4th July**. Gates open at 7 am. Bring a R 15.00 entry fee. We will braai after fishing, so bring your own.

Flytying workshop at Neil's home, is on 14th July. We will tie the Flash Back PTN and Yucatan Charlie. As usual, you should have received recipies for both flies by now. If not, contact Arthur on 076 312 0417.

The sardines should have left and the shad should be around, so we have another saltwater outing, this time to **Marina Beach on Sunday 25th July**. We will have breakfast at the restaurant on the beach after fishing.

Monthly meeting will be at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 29th July. Buy your refreshments from the bar, but bring your own eats for the braai.

The fly tying workshop is a week early on 4th August. At this one we will be tying John's "Go To" bass fly and the saltwater Calamari.

We have a **committee meeting at Dick's home on 11th August**. Outings for the coming months will be planned, so get your preferences to a committee member if you want them included.

A trout outing to Valley Lakes is on the cards for 13th to 15th August. This is on the road from Swartberg to Underberg. The club will pay for accommodation; members will be responsible for rod fees, food and transport costs. This venue has a short stretch of fishing on the Ndawana River and there is also a large still water lake, which, we have been told, holds good sized fish. Contact John 078 203 4549 if you want to go.

The **monthly meeting is again at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on the 26th August**. Normal arrangements re drinks and braai.

Neil has another **St Lucia - Cape Vidal trip planned for 20th to 27th August**. If you are interested in joining him in his time-share, contact him on 083 265 6608.



Past Events.

Trout trip to Wattled Crane. 11th to 14th June. By Dick Plaistowe.

The guys met up in Paddock at sparrows (at least 6.30 am felt that way for Dick) with John and Mitch in Arthur's car and Dean and Dick in Neil's car- many thanks to Arthur and Neil.

A noteworthy event on the trip to Kokstad, was a spectacular sunrise, with the sunlight playing games in the mist, otherwise an uneventful, but slow trip to the farm and Wattled Crane. Snow was visible coating the Drakensburg range to the west, which was spectacular, but made us wonder what temperatures we would experience at night.

Anyone observing the mountains of clothing, food, bedding, booze, boats and fishing tackle that was unloaded from the two cars would have had second thoughts about fly fishing being a minimalistic sport. All I can say is, "Thank God for double cab bakkies".

This was my first visit to Wattled Crane after many failed attempts and I was not disappointed. The dam and cottage are just picture perfect, the weather was good, if not great, due to occasional wind; the fishing was interesting and I'm told challenging, compared to most visits, and the guys did a superb job with the grub. Whisky just tastes so much better up there, particularly when out star gazing in the clear night skies. We are blessed having such a spot so close to us on the South Coast and I'm good to go back at every possible opportunity- just give me a shout.

John was first on the water on Friday, followed by Dean, Arthur, Neil, Mitch, and at long last, Dick. This was pretty much the pattern for the next two days, with Arthur first on Saturday, Dean on Sunday, and Dick and Mitch last on both days. In fact on Monday, Dick and Mitch were so late they never got to the water, but we both enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of the place.

So now for the catch report. I'm told that the normal catch for a long weekend is 50-60 fish. My apologies to everyone, but I'm afraid I forgot to write down the catch on Monday (possibly because I didn't fish) but I do recall Dean catching a nauseating number on Monday, ten I think, but am not sure how many were caught, or not caught, by Neil, John and Arthur. So I recorded a total of 50 fish of which Dean caught 25 which was a sterling effort, Dick and Mitch 7 each, John 5, Neil and Arthur 3 each. Flies that worked included Mrs Simpson, Papa Roach, Panchora Woolly Worm, Black Woolly Worm, Red Setter, Mickey Finn, Black eyed Green Damsel, Firefly, and Blood Worm.

A couple of concluding comments are that despite the heavy rains in the area, the dam water was very clear, if not crystal clear, and the fish were in excellent condition. I can recommend sleeping on the veranda, but preferably when it's a bit warmer !!!!

Monthly meeting. 'Tweni Tennis Club. Thursday 24th June.

Present: 15 members. **Apologies:** Bill, Ken, David, Dean, Sakkie.

Flies of the Month Competition. Judged by Jaco

Saltwater: Macaroni Fly: Dick, Steve, Sean, Neil, Arthur, Neil, John.

Freshwater: Serendipity: Sean, Sean, Arthur John, Dick, Sean, Neil, Neil, Steve.

General.

Arthur has booked a trip to Wattled Crane on Tues 20th and Wed 21st July. If any one would like to join him and his son, please contact Arthur and he will make the necessary adjustments to the amount still owing.

Dick will arrange for well-versed fly-fisherman, John Neaves, to come and give us a talk on his world-wide fly fishing experiences. This may be at either the July or the August monthly meeting. Steve will let you know Jaco and Sean mentioned that they fished the KZN trials held at Valley Lakes on the 11th and 12th June.

Boats, supplied by the establishment had to be used and these became very uncomfortable after a few hours of sitting in a cramped position. (Kick boats are a far better proposition.)

Accommodation is very comfortable and the fishing was good, with very clean water. Jaco caught a couple of Rainbows over 40 cms in length and Sean got at least one of over 50 cms, in addition to both catching many stockies.

Warren reported that Umtentweni was producing Bronze Bream on bait. These fish, over 40 cms in length, are well within fly casting distance, but one needs a very fast sinking line, in order to get the fly down to the fish. There are also abundant Stone Bream in the area.



Pat is off to Cape Town at the beginning of July and he said his fond farewell to all members. He thanked Steve for introducing him to the club (*in 2008*) and he also thanked SCFA members for the many happy hours that he spent on numerous outings with them, since then.

Steve reported that despite paying a deposit for the accommodation at Valley Lakes, club funds remained very respectable.

Fresh water scalie outing to the Umzimkulu. Sunday 27th June. By Stephen Brand.

Piet, Sean, Stacey, Dick, Neil, Steve, Kevin and John met at the turn off and went down to the river at 8am. All the guys went up river, except Steve and Kevin went down. All we got was two bites down stream, but Neil got lucky up stream and got one 25 cm scaly. We then met mid-river and Grumpy Sean finally got his one, a scaly of 22 cm. The water was clean and flowing quite strongly: the temperature of the water was also down and this was possibly the reason for the lack of fish in any numbers.

Catch and release.

With respect to the article on catch and release in last month's newsletter, Laurence Davies has added the following:

1. Water temperature is a big issue, as dissolved oxygen levels are much lower in warm water than in cold water and stressed fish have less chance of survival in warm water. They build up lactic acid which can kill the fish, even after it has swum away. Anglers think that dead fish will rise to the surface, but they rarely do, instead, sinking to the bottom. Many clubs close their trout waters when water temperatures get to 22 degrees or more. NFFC closed all their trout dams for over 3 months a couple of years ago.

2. Know the limit of your tackle. I see too many anglers fighting fish and their rods are nowhere near being stressed. They could have brought the fish in much quicker. Test your tackle by tying the end of your leader to a spring balance, being held by a friend. Pull back on the rod at what you think is the level at which you think you will be fighting the fish, and get the friend to read out from the spring balance. You will be amazed at how much harder you could be fighting the fish. A 5wt rod will be hard pushed to pull more than a kilo on the scale.

3. Limit hero shots. If you are taking a photo, only lift the fish out of the water when you have the camera all ready, lift the fish out, snap and return to water. "Keep em wet" is a good motto to adopt.

As for catch and devour, one needs equally to take care of fish being kept for the pot, to ensure that you are eating the fish at its best..

Lactic acid build up deteriorates the flesh of the fish, which is one of the reasons why we need to bring the fish in as quickly as possible, and apply the priest as soon as the fish is landed.

Never leave the fish in the sun. Rather wrap it in wet newspaper and leave it in the shade.

Clean the fish as soon as possible, as it will deteriorate with time. Hugh Huntley would often paddle to the side and clean the fish immediately after being caught and wrap it in wet newspaper.

Never leave the fish on a stringer in the water.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.

 Numerous members at the monthly meeting on Thursday reported that they have had some successes in the surf lately. Kingfish and Wave Garrick make up the majority of the catch, but there are plenty of shad around, one just has to find a spot that is not crowded by bait anglers.

Last Cast.

Once again, a big thank you to Dick, Steve and also to Durban Flytyers member Laurence, for the articles. Steve was on the ball, as always and sent his article 10 minutes after he had his last cast.

The fish are there, one just has to find them. Keep trying.

Cheers Arthur.

