The Acute Angler

March 2018 **Volume 51, Number 2**

GOFC News

March Monthly Meeting

March 27rd 7:30-9:30 pm
UF Vet School
Speaker: Rick Ryals

Join us for our March monthly meeting featuring Rick Ryals. Captain Rick Ryals, one of the best known charter captains in Jacksonville who'll be sharing tips on deep water trolling. Rick hosts Florida Sportsman magazine, Live on WFXJ930 radio show on Saturday mornings and is the captain on a big sportfisher based out of Mayport. As always we will have amazing door and raffle prizes!

Other Upcoming Events

Cobia and Mackeral Learnament

Be on the lookout for details about a cobia and mackeral (Spanish and king) learnament! Although a date hasn't been set, this new learnament will happen in April before the Cobia-thon/ Mac Attack tournament.

April Monthly Meeting

April 24 at UF Vet School

Captain Clay Shidler, of Hang'em High Sport Fishing charter, will come discuss inshore and offshore fishing in our area (mostly out of Crystal River / Homosassa areas).

Cobiathon/Mac Attack

April 28th out of Cedar Key (Members only)

Prizes

- **Biggest Cobia**: 1st place $75, 2nd place $50, 3rd place $25
- **Biggest King Mackerel:** 1st place $75, 2nd place $50, 3rd place $25
- **Biggest Spanish Mackerel:** 1st place $75, 2nd place $50, 3rd place $25

For each species category, a single angler can only win a single prize (but you may win in multiple species categories

Happy 50th Birthday GOFC!

This year GOFC is celebrating their 50th anniversary! To commemorate this special year, be on the look out for limited edition GOFC shirts and decals!

Reminders:

Be sure to renew your GOFC membership and pay the club dues! Please see the GOFC website (paying online) or treasurer Debby Knopf!

The mission of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club is to promote and support recreational saltwater fishing in the Big Bend area; to provide educational and recreational experiences for its members of all ages; and, to promote responsible conservation of saltwater resources.

Fish Caught Since the Last Newsletter

Angler: Ross McElroy
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 4.5 lbs
Date Caught: 02/09/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: Ross McElroy
Fish: Redfish
Weight: 4.5 lbs
Date Caught: 02/18/18
Lure/Bait: Crank Bait
Location: Shired Island

Angler: Ross McElroy
Fish: Redfish
Weight: 6.05 lbs
Date Caught: 02/26/18
Lure/Bait: Crank bait
Location: Shired Island

Angler: Ross McElroy
Fish: Seatrout
Weight: 2.0 lbs
Date Caught: 02/13/18
Lure/Bait: Artificial
Location: Keaton Beach

Angler: Debby Knopf
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 2.56 lbs
Date Caught: 02/18/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: Marcia Ellett
Fish: Seatrout
Weight: 1 lb 9 oz
Date Caught: 02/25/18
Lure/Bait: Artificial
Location: Steinhatchee grass flats

Angler: Justin Magnifico
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 4.62 lbs
Date Caught: 02/15/18
Lure/Bait: Bait
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: Ross McElroy
Fish: Seatrout
Weight: 3.51 lbs
Date Caught: 02/21/18
Lure/Bait: Slic
Location: Keaton Beach

Angler: Tim Pedersen
Fish: Flounder
Weight: 2.3 lbs
Date Caught: 02/28/18
Lure/Bait: Lure
Location: Fishermans Rest

Angler: John Byatt
Fish: Seatrout
Weight: 4 lbs 6 oz
Date Caught: 02/17/18
Lure/Bait: Soft Plastic
Location: Dark Island

Angler: John Byatt
Fish: Redfish
Weight: 5 lbs 5 oz
Date Caught: 02/25/18
Lure/Bait: Gold Slick Lure
Location: Dark Island

Angler: Ross McElroy
Fish: Redfish
Weight: 6.10 lbs
Date Caught: 02/28/18
Lure/Bait: Mirrodyne
Location: Keaton Beach

Angler: Ryan Kremser
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 2.12 lbs
Date Caught: 02/18/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: John Byatt
Fish: Flounder
Weight: 02/25/18
Date Caught: 1 lb 13 oz
Lure/Bait: Gold Slick Lure
Location: Dark Island

Angler: Phil Horn
Fish: Redfish
Weight: 7.19 lbs
Date Caught: 02/26/18
Lure/Bait: Mirrolure
Location: Keaton Beach

Angler: Virgil Cooper
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 3.875 lbs
Date Caught: 02/19/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Suwannee

Angler: Tim Pedersen
Fish: Seatrout
Weight: 5.54 lbs
Date Caught: 02/25/18
Lure/Bait: Lure
Location: Fishermans Rest

Angler: Jack Cutright
Fish: Flounder
Weight: 12 oz
Date Caught: 03/04/18
Lure/Bait: Jig/Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: Justin Magnifico
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 7.69 lbs
Date Caught: 02/19/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Suwannee

Angler: Tim Pedersen
Fish: Redfish
Weight: 5.54 lbs
Date Caught: 02/25/18
Lure/Bait: Lure
Location: Fishermans Rest

Angler: Jack Cutright
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 3 lbs 11 oz
Date Caught: 03/04/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Fish Caught (continued)

Angler: Melvina Cutright
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 2 lbs 8 oz
Date Caught: 03/04/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: Ed Ellett
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 3 lbs 11 oz
Date Caught: 03/04/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Dry Dock

Angler: Chic Hinton
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 2 lbs 11oz
Date Caught: 03/05/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: Jay Peacock
Fish: Seatrout
Weight: 3 lbs
Date Caught: 03/05/18
Lure/Bait: Lure
Location: Keaton Beach

Angler: Phil Horn
Fish: Flounder
Weight: 1 lb 6 oz
Date Caught: 03/05/18
Lure/Bait: Mirrolure
Location: Keaton Beach

Angler: David Patterson
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 4.66 lbs
Date Caught: 3/10/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

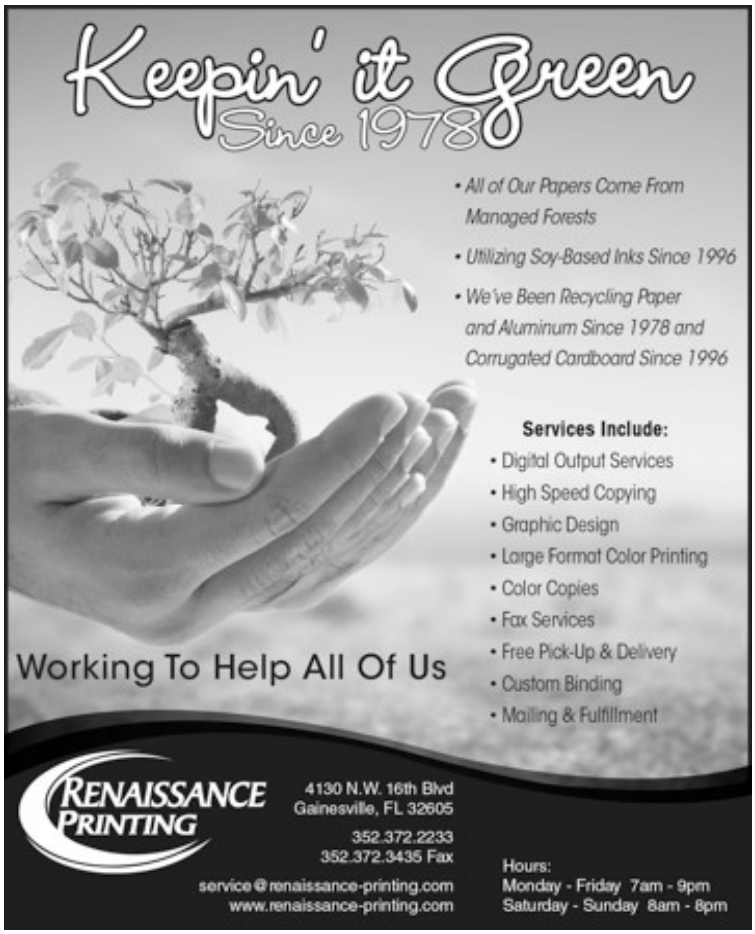
Angler: Marcia Ellett
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 3 lbs 4 oz
Date Caught: 03/04/18
Lure/Bait: Live Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

Angler: John Richard
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 2 lbs 15 oz
Date Caught: 03/05/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Dry Dock Wreck

Angler: John Byatt
Fish: Sheepshead
Weight: 3.22 lbs
Date Caught: 03/10/18
Lure/Bait: Shrimp
Location: Cedar Key

WHEN YOU'RE ENJOYING THAT FREE PIZZA AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, REMEMBER IT'S COMPLIMENTS OF FREDDIE WEHBE AND ALL THE LOCAL DOMINO'S STORES.

THANK YOU, FREDDIE!

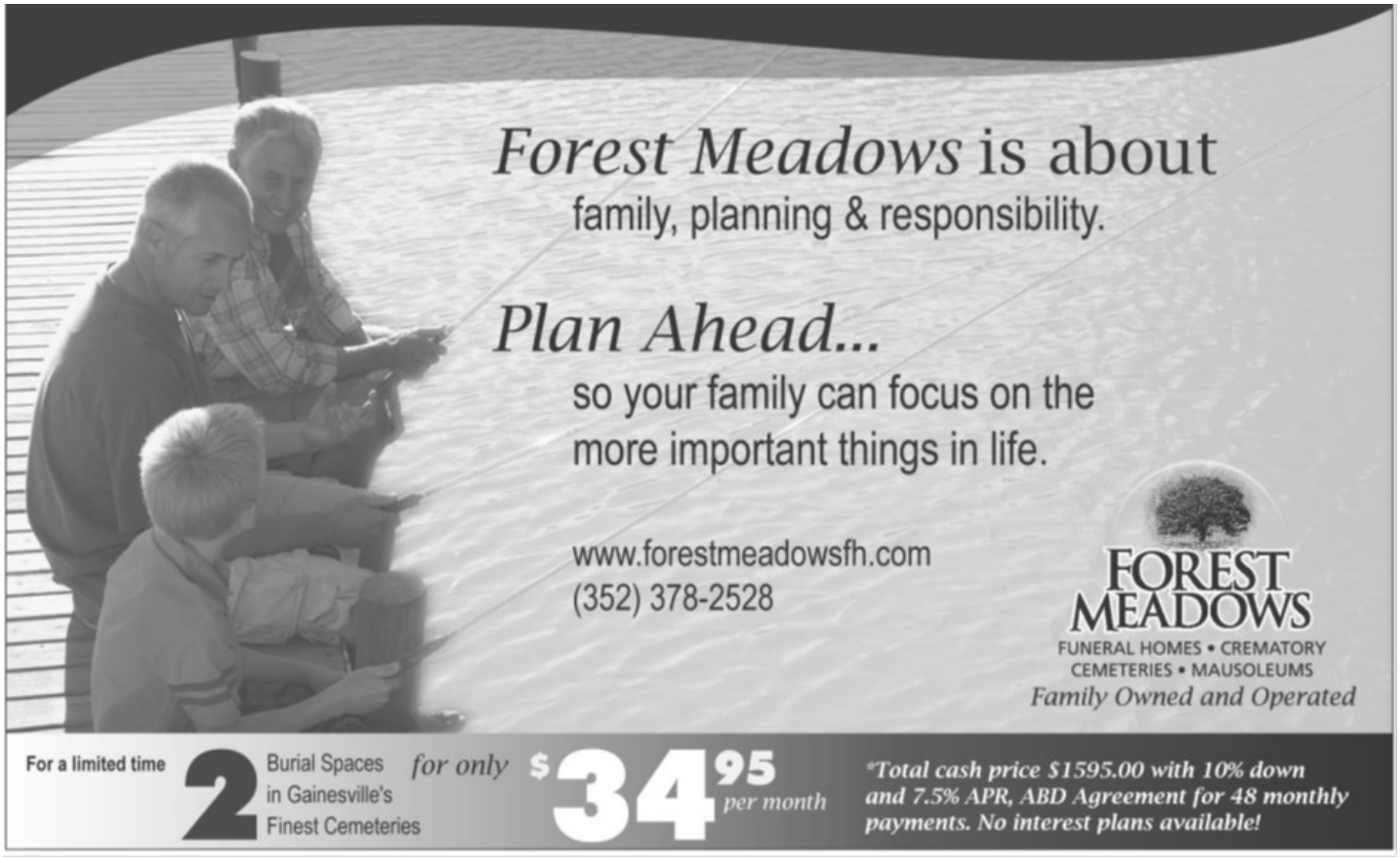


New Rulz for the Fishing Club

by Jay Peacock, GOFC Secretary

During the February Board Meeting the GOFC Board of Directors approved an updated version of the club's Rules and Regulations. These incorporate rule changes and additions passed by the board over a number of years. You may have heard of some of the rules in President's Messages or other articles already. In order of implementation from newest to oldest:

1. **Amberjack can be entered all year long regardless of closed seasons with the requirement that they be released unharmed if caught during a closed season.** Amberjack will be entered and scored based on overall length measured from the tip of the jaw or tip of the snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in the tail. Amberjack can still be entered by weight for club record purposes as long as the fish was caught during an open season. Any amberjack entered by weight must have been weighed on land as at-sea weights are inaccurate due to the boat's motion.
2. The Ellett Contest runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year. **All entries must be submitted by January 15th to count for the previous year's contest. All fish must be entered into the Ellett Contest within 1 month of the date they are caught.** For example, a fish caught on February 15th can be entered until March 15th. However, because the year's entries must be tallied in January the grace period for late December catches is less than 1 month.
3. **Bonus Ellett points** are awarded for participation in events and for submitting articles to be published in the GOFC magazine or newsletter. Members will be awarded 3 bonus points for participation in a club tournament and 1 bonus point for a learnament. Members who submit an article (minimum of 250 words) along with picture will receive 3 Ellett points up to a maximum of 6 Ellett points per year. (continued on page 5)



http://forestmeadowsfh.com/

4. **Fish that are caught outside of the season for legal possession can be entered for the Big Ten award.** These fish must be of legal size and must be released unharmed. This in no way changes the rules for other club contests. Fish caught outside of legal possession seasons cannot be entered into any other club contest and will not count toward Ellett points or species size contests.
5. **The redfish club record was changed to only include legally sized fish based on current regulations.** The old record will remain in place with an asterisk indicating it is a legacy record from when regulations allowed large redfish to be kept.
6. **Tournament Master Angler clarification:** The Master Angler for Tournaments is determined by the highest Ellett Point total with no requirement to enter fish in offshore and inshore categories. The winner of the Master Angler Award is not eligible to win the Inshore or Offshore Angler Awards.
7. Changes to how many times members can win the Ellett and the Master Angler category added. **Once a member wins the Ellett Contest three times they are no longer eligible to win this prize and are designated a GOFC Master Angler.** An award for the Master Angler who earns the most Ellett Points in a year was implemented with this change.

In addition to the new rules outlined above there were some changes made to Rule 8 – Fish Entry Documentation. This section was updated to reflect our online submission process done through our website. A full set of the club Rules and Regulations and By-Laws can be found on the "About" section of the GOFC website. http://www.gofc.us/wp/about/

http://www.pjmarine.com/

http://www.millersboating.com/

FWC Updates:

Recreational Cobia Changes in State Waters (effective Feb. 1)

"Several changes to the management of cobia in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico will go into effect Feb. 1. These changes were approved at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meeting in December.

These changes will further promote sustainable management of this fishery and were developed in coordination with anglers who were concerned about the fishery. The changes will apply to all state waters north of the Monroe-Collier county line.

Changes effective Feb. 1, 2018, include:

- Making the recreational and commercial **bag limits** for cobia in Gulf state waters the same by reducing the commercial limit from two to **one fish per person**.
- Reducing the recreational and commercial **vessel limit** in Gulf state waters from six to **two cobia per vessel, per day.**

The current 33-inch minimum size limit will not change."

Link to news release: http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2018/january/24/gulf-cobia/

(more updates on page 8)

http://www.texastrailersfl.com/

Gulf Gray Triggerfish Opening and Size Limits (effective March 1)

"The recreational gray triggerfish season will reopen to harvest in Gulf state and federal waters March 1. When the season reopens, the **daily bag limit will be one fish per person** (previously two fish per person) and the minimum **size limit will be 15 inches fork length** (previously 14 inches fork length). These changes were made at the July 2017 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meeting and are consistent with changes made in federal waters. The changes also include an annual January through February recreational closure in Gulf state waters in addition to the annual June and July spawning closure.

These federal consistency measures should help maintain fishing opportunities for gray triggerfish in state and federal waters for 2018 and the future.

If you plan to fish for gray triggerfish in Gulf state or federal waters from a private recreational vessel, you must sign up as a Gulf Reef Fish Angler(annual renewal is required). "

Link to news release: http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2018/february/21/triggerfish/

Ed Ellett, CPCU, CLU, CIC

905 NW 56th Terrace, Suite A, Gainesville 32605

www.EllettIns.com

Ed@elletins.com

Ellett
Insurance working for you.

- Life Insurance for dying too soon.
- Annuities for preserving what you have.
- Long Term Care Insurance when longevity becomes challenging.
- Home, Auto, Boat, Umbrella, Disability and Business Insurance for the challenges in between.

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Those Low-Down Dirty Rotten Convict Fish

By Ryan Kremser

If you're going sheepshead fishing for the first time, bring plenty of change for the curse jar. Their ability to avoid detection while cleaning your hook can make targeting these notorious bait stealers frustrating to say the least. Of course, the challenge is what makes fishing for sheepshead so much fun. Getting a good hookset in their tough, boney mouths may not be easy, but it's even harder to resist letting out a loud hoot once a nice one is finally landed. With the right equipment, a few tips, and a little practice, fishing for sheepshead can be very rewarding.

Sheepshead are members of the porgy family, which also includes pinfish. They range from Brazil to Nova Scotia, and thrive in the inshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico. They are typically associated with hard bottoms, oyster bars, jetties, pilings, or any structure encrusted with marine growth. They spend the warmer months inshore leisurely browsing for crustaceans, mollusks, small fish, and other edible morsels. Starting in February, adult fish move offshore to spawning grounds where they will remain through April. During this time they will often aggregate near reefs and wrecks.

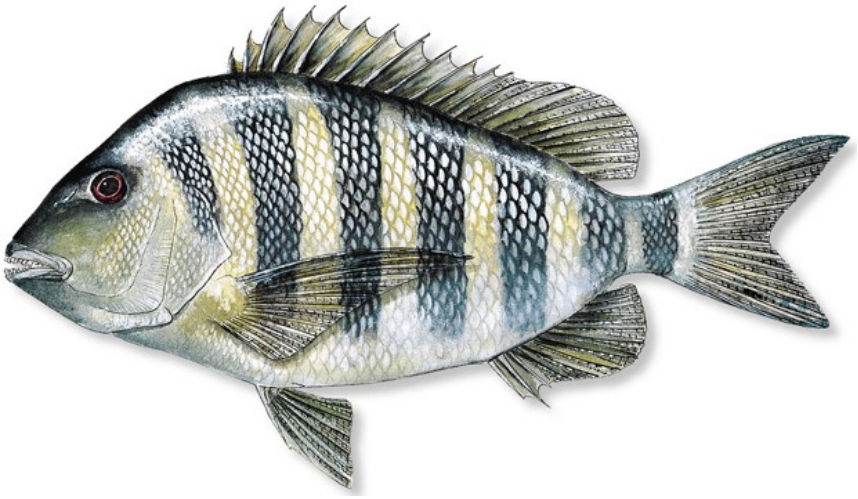


Image from: http://www.floridasportsman.com/sportfish/sheepshead/

Female Sheepshead lay an average of 87,000 eggs per spawn. The larvae hatch offshore and are carried by tides and current to inshore waters. The nickname "convict fish" comes from the characteristic vertical black stipes that appear when the larvae reach about 5/8". Juvenile sheepshead first settle into grass beds then migrate to hard bottom areas and structure in the late summer or early fall of their first year. Male sheepshead reach maturity by the age of three years and females by the age of four. In Florida they reach about 15" by the age of five and can live 20 years or more reaching more than 24" in length. The current GOFC club record was set in 1989 by Cecil Quates at a whopping 10.75 lbs.

An assessment of sheepshead stock by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2015 indicated that sheepshead have been over-harvested on Florida's Gulf Coast in the past. The total estimated biomass of Gulf coast sheepshead decreased from 5,910 metric tons (mt) in 1982 to 2,597 mt in 1996. Until that time, Sheepshead were not specifically regulated in Florida, but in response to the dwindling stocks, a minimum length, recreational bag limit, and restrictions on commercial fishing were established. Since then the fishery has shown some signs of recovery with total biomass estimates averaging 3,234 mt in recent years. (continued on page 10).

Current FWC regulations set the minimum size at 12” and the daily bag limit at 15 per person, however at the February Commission meeting, FWC moved forward with a draft proposal to reduce the daily bag limit to 5 fish per person and to create a recreational vessel limit of 50 during March and April. A final public hearing will be held in April.

Sheepshead make excellent table fare with firm white meat and delicious flavor that some attribute to their shellfish diet. They can be tricky to clean and fillet due to their thick scales and spiny fins. My first attempt quickly turned into a real hack job. Fortunately, for the uninitiated there are several how-to videos available on YouTube with tips that make the job significantly easier.

A medium to heavy rod with a stiff tip will help ensure a good hookset and increase your hook up ratio over lighter tackle. Spooling your reel with a braided line will also help with hooksets because it stretches less than mono, plus it transmits more vibrations so you’ll sense the bite sooner. A leader is a must, especially if you’re fishing near structure, but sheepshead have great vision and will avoid your bait if they see a leader. So avoid wire and stick to either fluorocarbon or hard mono. Start with 20 lb test go lighter if you can.

You’ll want a weight to get the bait down to the fish, especially if you’re fishing an offshore wreck. Some will use an egg weight above a swivel, others prefer to hang the weight below the hook using a three-way swivel. If you’re running low on weights, put the hook below the weight on a leader that’s lighter than your main line. That way if your hook gets snagged and have to break off, you won’t lose your weight.

Be sure to use a quality hook with a super sharp point as sheepshead have very tough mouths. A 1/0 or 2/0 will work well. Jig heads with are another popular option. Popular baits include small pieces of shrimp, mussels, clams, oysters, sand fleas, and fiddler crabs are all popular baits. Sheepshead can be very finicky, so it’s a good idea to find out what they’ve been biting on before you go and bring a couple of back-up options just incase. When fishing near barnacle encrusted pilings, many anglers will scrape barnacles off into the water to chum the sheepshead. Just be sure to make friends with the owner before scraping barnacles off a private dock.

With the spawning season reaching its height, now is a great time to get out and catch sheepshead! Happy fishing!

STEAM CLEAN
POWERFUL STEAM MACHINE FOR CARPET, UPHOLSTERY, TILE & GROUT
CUSTOMIZED
HOUSE CLEANING
PRESSURE WASHING
WINDOW CLEANING
10% OFF
ANY SPECIALTY SERVICE
(EXCLUDING HOUSE CLEANING)
RUB A DUB DUB
352.336.8570
www.rubadubcleaning.com

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Awards Banquet and congratulations to all of our winners! We had a great turnout. Don't forget to enter your fish in the Ellet competition for next year!

AFL
ALACHUA FARM & LUMBER
EST. 1984
SOFT BAITS by:
Bass Assassin
ZOOM
Berkley Gulp!
Reaction Innovations
HARD BAITS by:
MirrOlure
Rapala
JOHNSON
& Many More!
COSTA DEL MAR
see what's out there
Over 144 Pair In Stock!
FREE
Glass Cleaner & Sunglass Retainer with Each Costa Purchase
RODS & REELS by:
Lew's
Abu Garcia
SHIMANO
DAIWA
okuma
Carrot Stix
PENN
Sky Rider
ZEBCO
and Many More!
If we do not have it in stock, we can order it!
10% OFF
COUPON
on Boots, Apparel & Sporting Goods
MUST HAVE THIS COUPON
CHECK OUT OUR NEW STORE
T3 Outdoors
off Exit 22 in Valdosta, GA. for ALL Your Sporting Goods Needs!
Come See Wayne, Linda & Staff @ AFL and Jud & Candace @ T3 for All Your Woods & Water Needs!
FULL GUN, ARCHERY, FRESH & SALTWATER FISHING PRO SHOP
GUNS, BOOTS & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!!
14101 N.W. 145th Ave • Alachua, FL 386-462-3003

Featured Seafood Recipes:

Roasted Whole Sheepshead

Elizabeth Sniegocki from Edible Sarasota

Ingredients:

For the sauce:

- 1 T olive oil
- 1 large onion (thinly sliced)
- 1 bell pepper (diced)
- 1 clove garlic (minced)
- 1 C mushrooms (sliced)
- 1 C tomato sauce
- 1 14oz can of fire-roasted tomatoes
- 2 T Worcestershire sauce
- 1 T honey
- 2 T lemon juice
- 1 t salt
- Ground black pepper to taste

For the Fish:

- 2 lb whole sheepshead
- Fresh herb sprigs of choice
- Salt
- Ground black pepper
- 2 T softened butter
- 1 T all purpose flour
- 1 lemon (thinly sliced)

Directions:

For the sauce:

1. Heat olive oil in a saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add onions, bell pepper, and garlic and cook until translucent (~5 minutes)
3. Add mushrooms and cook until mushrooms are soft
4. Add tomato sauce, canned tomatoes, Worcestershire source, honey, and garlic juice and bring to a simmer
5. Cook for 5 minutes and season with salt and pepper

For the fish:

1. Preheat your oven to 375° and grease a baking pan
2. Rinse the sheepshead with cold water and pat dry
3. Rub inside cavity with salt and black pepper
4. Stuff inside cavity with fresh herb sprigs
5. Place sheepshead in the greased baking pan and top with dashes of salt and pepper
6. Pour sauce over and around the sheepshead
7. Bake 25-30 minutes but basting every 10 minutes
8. Mix the softened butter with the flour
9. Scrape sauce from the top of the fish and spread the flour/butter mixture on top
10. Broil 3-4 minutes
11. Garnish with lemon slices and parsley and enjoy!

http://ediblesarasota.ediblecommunities.com/recipes/roasted-whole-sheepshead-spanish-rice

BLACKENED SHEEPSHEAD WITH BASIL-LIME CREAM SAUCE

Chili Pepper Madness

Ingredients:

For the Fish:

- 1 T olive oil
- 4 6oz Sheepshead fillets
- 1 t paprika
- 1 t cayenne pepper
- 1 t garlic powder
- 1 t dried basil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 jalapeno pepper (sliced into rings)
- Lime slices for serving
- Avocado slices for serving, if desired

For the Sauce:

- ½ C crema or sour cream
- Juice from half a lime
- Zest from half a lime + more as needed
- 1-1/2 T basil (finely chopped)

Directions:

For the Sauce:

1. Whisk together sour cream, lime juice, zest, and basil
2. Let sit until fish is done cooking

For the Fish:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pan over medium-high heat
2. Season fillets with the cayenne, paprika, garlic, basil and salt and pepper.
3. Place fillets in the hot pan for 2 minutes to sear
4. Flip and repeat 2 minute searing
5. Add a splash of water and cover
6. Cook fish until cooked through (a few minutes)
7. Add jalapeno slices and splash of olive oil
8. Cook a few more minutes flipping once
9. Remove from heat
10. Top fish with sauce, lime slices, and avocado and enjoy!

https://www.chilipeppermadness.com/chili-pepper-recipes/seafood/fish/other-fish/blackened-sheepshead-with-basil-lime-cream-sauce

Time to renew your club membership

It's now easier than ever to renew. Just go to the "Join now!" tab on the GOFC website (http://www.gofc.us/wp/join-now/), fill out the form online and pay using PayPal, only $50 gets you a full membership through 2018 if you have not joined yet or are renewing.

If you'd prefer to support the US Post Office, complete the NEW MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL form (download from the website) and mail it to the GOFC Treasurer.

Debby Knopf, Treasurer
Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club
3324 W. University Avenue
PMB #337
Gainesville, FL 32607

Please make your check payable to GOFC.

Or just bring cash, a check or a credit card to the next club meeting and pay Debby at the meeting.

IMPORTANT GOFC CONTACTS

WEBSITE: www.gofc.us

GOFC MAILING ADDRESS:
3324 W. University Avenue
PMB #337
Gainesville, FL 32607

MAGAZINE EDITOR:
Charlie Courtney
courtneych@me.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Michaela (Mertz) McCrary
mwmertz@gmail.com

PRESIDENT: DALE REED

VICE-PRESIDENT: GLENN ACOMB

SECRETARY: JAY PEACOCK

TREASURER: DEBBY KNOPF

http://www.landsautotrim.com/