

THE GULF COAST COUNCIL OF FFI & TAIL FLY FISHING MAGAZINE PRESENT

2023
GULF COAST



CLASSIC

FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

MAY 5-6, 2023 GULF STATE PARK LEARNING CAMPUS
20249A STATE PARK RD, GULF SHORES, AL



FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT · FLY FISHING FILM TOUR
FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS · FLY CASTING & FLY TYING WORKSHOPS
BEGINNER TYING & CASTING INSTRUCTION · RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION
EXHIBITORS & VENDORS



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!



MORE INFO AT FFIGULFCOASTCLASSIC.COM

Gulf Coast Classic



Fly Fishing Festival

Presented by
Gulf Coast Council - Fly Fishers International
& Tail Magazine
May 5-6, 2023
Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, AL



The Gulf Coast Council (GCC) of Fly Fishers International (FFI) is proud to present our inaugural **Gulf Coast Classic** fly fishing festival, to be held Friday-Saturday, May 5-6, 2023, at the Learning Campus of Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama. This unique facility offers state-of-the-art theatre area, meeting rooms, outside facilities, a restaurant and more. The activities for this event will be expanded beyond anything the FFI Gulf Coast Council has ever offered to the fly fishing community.

Among the activities tentatively planned:

- Seminars on fishing locations, tactics, multiple species
- Fly tying demonstrations
- Exhibitors and vendors
- Conservation programs
- Beginner fly casting instruction (free with admission)
- Beginner fly tying instruction (free with admission)
- Fly tying workshops (registration required)
- Casting workshops (registration required)
- Fishing Tournament (registration required, kicks off Thursday a.m.)
- Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) (ticket purchase required, limited seating)
- Raffles & silent auction for great items

For updated event information, visit www.ffigulfcoastclassic.com.

This event will be focused on activities and education in the form of fly tying, casting, various methods for catching species on the fly, fly fishing destinations, and conservation. Many of the region's top fly tyers will be on hand demonstrating their favorite patterns. We'll have a large raffle and silent auction with many unique items. Along with a fly fishing film festival, and other cool happenings.

And we will have a unique fishing tournament – our Mixed Bag Challenge will focus on diversity, not size. After all, Gulf State Park is a very unique location for fly fishing enthusiasts, with 600-acre Lake Shelby within the park offering a wide variety of both fresh and brackish species. The clear Gulf waters along the park's beach are home to pompano, spanish mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish, and numerous other marine species.

In addition to fishing, the park also offers numerous other activities for the entire family. The 6,000-acre park has three-and-a-half miles of beach for swimming, collecting shells, or sunbathing. The backcountry trail has 28 miles of paved trail to hike or bike. Visitors can explore using the bike share program, which is free for the first 3 hours. With over 50 bikes available. Or bring your own. There's kayaking on Lake Shelby, the closest freshwater lake to the Gulf of Mexico. There's also the park's Interpretive Center.

A short 38 minute drive from the park is Pensacola with many more things to see and do. One that should be on everyone's list is the Naval Air Museum.

Of course, back at the Learning Center, fly anglers will find no shortage of activities taking place. Here, the Gulf Coast Council will have a wide variety of seminars, instruction, tying demonstrations, and more across the campus. There's an on-site restaurant with excellent food, craft beers, and a special seating area for Classic attendees.

On Saturday evening, we'll hold our first-ever film festival. The 2023 Fly-Fishing Film Tour (F3T) is coming to Gulf Shores! More details on that to come!

For volunteers, presenters, fly tyers, vendors and exhibitors, the Gulf Coast Council has procured the on-campus dormitories for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. This extraordinary facility comes complete with linens, wi-fi, and more.

Registration for these beds will begin sometime in January – for those who have accepted our invitation as a volunteer, presenter, fly tyer, etc. Cost will be \$50 per night, a bargain compared to hotel rates in the area. On March 15th, any open beds will be extended to any attendees who have registered for the event (first-come, first-serve).

Great opportunities exist for Gulf Coast Classic Sponsors and Donors, Demonstration Fly Tyers, and Volunteers. We hope you will participate through one or more of these opportunities.

*** NOTE: smoking is not allowed anywhere in the state park, either indoors or outdoors. We can suggest walking-distance places to smoke if the need arises ***



Did you know... **TAIL FLY FISHING MAGAZINE IS THE ONLY SALTWATER FLY FISHING MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD**

WWW.TAILFLYFISHING.COM

The image shows the cover of the magazine. At the top, it says "THE VOICE OF SALTWATER FLY FISHING". The title "tail" is in a large, cursive font, with "FLY FISHING MAGAZINE" underneath. A gold circular badge on the right says "10 YEARS THE VOICE OF SALTWATER FLY FISHING 2012-2022". Below the title, it reads "TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE" and "Special Double Edition". The cover features a large, detailed image of a fish's tail. In the bottom right corner, the issue number "61" is displayed, along with "SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022". A barcode is visible at the very bottom right.