

# THE FIELDWORKERS CLUB

It's not just a fishing trip, It's an expedition with a mission



Dear All, to say 2017 has started with a bang brings new meaning to that word. The last 6 weeks have been a whirlwind to say the least. A very exciting time for me as I've been on the road introducing new folks to our club. I have also had the chance to see many of you in person. Thanks for taking the time. Last Saturday I went back to my TV production roots and made relative history by being the first in the Fly Fishing Industry to do a LIVE broadcast about the Fieldworkers Club on Facebook. More about that later but over 500 people tuned in! Spring steelhead season has begun here in Michigan. Yesterday I got out for a few hours of fun on the river and enjoyed the battle with 2 bright fish! It will not be long before we are packing for our first expedition of 2017.

**ISSUE #2, SPRING 2017**

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## Exciting News from EL Pescador!

I have an exciting development to report out of El Pescador in Belize. Recently they decided to lengthen the duration of the fishing day from 8-hours to 10. A very cool new addition to an already world class fly fishing destination. This new schedule will be especially fantastic this summer as we focus our efforts down at Long Key. I expect these additional

hours will enable us to both increase our odds with the migratory tarpon and also provide additional time to anglers who would like to spend time focusing on bonefish and permit on the way back north. Way to go El Pescador, you guys know us well!

## On The Road

This year I made it my goal to get out and meet as many new people as I possibly could and introduce them to the Fieldworkers Club, our partnership with The University of Miami and the tagging work we are doing. As you all know, growing a successful new endeavor does not come without some windshield time, frequent flyer miles and a beer at the bar or two. I was able to visit The Texas Fly Fishers of Houston, Orvis Chicago, Nomad Anglers in Grand Rapids, Michigan Pere Marquette Lodge of Baldwin, Michigan, The Buckeye Fly Show outside of Cincinnati. The Fly Fishing Show in Somerset, New Jersey & San Francisco. Plus Bayou City Anglers in

Houston, of course my home clubs Angler's Club of Chicago and EDTU. The folks at the Texas Fly Fishers of Houston had me out to lead a fly tying seminar, which I tied 3 essential flies for Belize and Cuba. I guess folks liked that topic as about 25 people sat in and learned how to tie my 2 tarpon flies; Blanqueto and Belize Black Death. Plus I showed them all how I tie the now world famous Avalon Fly. Brandon Dillard and Kevin Small tie for the nicest guys in the nation award for their hospitality and "time spent with Adam" while on the road. Jeff Reinke, you get 2<sup>nd</sup> for learning how to tie a perfect Stu Apte Improved Blood knot.

*Welcome to John Peabody the first new 2017 angler to sign up for Belize!!!*



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## So Why is Cuba's Garden of the Queens so Special?

Jardines de la Renia could possibly be the most pristine marine environment on planet earth. Don't take it from me; take it from Jacques Cousteau who reported this assessment to the world upon his return more than 15-years ago. If you are intrigued to learn more you can do a lot worse than spending a few minutes watching the link to the CBS 60 Minutes segment on the right. You will learn why this place truly is the Cuban Gem of the Caribbean. Things just got even better for The Garden of the Queens in 2017. It is now part of The Cuban Fly Fishing Sanctuary. This new

sanctuary classification provides yet one more layer of protection to this already highly exclusive eco-system. The guys from Avalon are showing the world how to not only maintain but also improve recreational marine resources. Congratulations amigos! Dream up a better salt water fly fishing experience, than the 2017 Cuba Tarpon Tagging Expedition. I bet you can't. Everything you already know plus, the best tarpon month of the year and during the new moon week! There are still a few open spots for the 2017 Cuba Tarpon Tagging Expedition in April.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2nMUnK7S-A>



## News and notes from the Club!

Jeff Reinke struck gold at the Treelands Premier Musky Fly Fishing Championship in Hayward, Wisconsin last fall when he hooked and landed a huge 47" musky on fly. Quite a show you put on Mr. Good JUJU! Captain Dan Kuksa was at the helm of his new Ranger boat when they netted that fish. Great job guys! In all there were about 8 of us Fieldworkers guys at the tournament. You'll have to ask Jeff for the photo... If you'd like to join our crew for the 2017 tournament be in touch. We'd love to have you along.

The fellas from TV's Sliver Kings who joined us last year at the Belize Tarpon Tagging Expedition finally got to air with their show this past weekend. It was fun to watch them catch a few permit and almost land that big huge tarpon near Savannah Flats. Research is a two part word isn't it guys.. RE-SEARCH! We almost had a tag in that fish didn't we Bou?!?!? You can see the episode on-line by clicking this link <https://vimeo.com/201511870>

Ed and Lisa have left EL Pescador and Ken and Ann have arrived. Thanks for everything Ed and Lisa! Can't wait to meet you Ken and Ann.

Brandon Dillard and Eric Butler will make their way north in a few weeks to join Dan Kuksa and me on the river chasing Steel! Brandon is now a confirmed Steelheader, Simms waders, a warm hat and thermal long johns to prove it. Eric bring you're A-Game buddy, you're going to need it.

Kevin Small and Will Armstrong are Cuba bound and so is Larry Leffingwell!!!

Hannah Kiesler wrote an amazing article about her experience with us in Cuba last year in The Dun Magazine. Great job Hannah and I am so glad you convinced your dad (Mitch) to bring you along. You can find the article here

<http://dunthemagazine.com/editions/August2016/>

Please keep me in the loop with news and notes of your fishing and life adventures and by all means send some photos for us all to enjoy in future newsletters. Send notes to [adam@fieldworkersclub.com](mailto:adam@fieldworkersclub.com)



## 3 Special Flies

If I were going to pick my top three flies for tarpon, permit and bonefish they would be. The Belize Black Death, Blanquito and The Avalon Fly. Here are the photos and materials lists below.



### **Belize Black Death**

- 3/0 Stainless Tarpon Hook
- Dazzle Eyes
- 60# Mono Loop
- Black Rabbit Strip
- Black Marabou
- Red Rabbit Strip
- Black Thread



### **Blanquito**

- #1 Stainless Saltwater Hook
- Black Mono Eyes
- 60# Mono Loop
- White Rabbit Strip
- Clear Crystal Flash
- White Marabou Cape
- White EP Fiber Head
- Clear Mono Thread



### **Avalon**

- #1 Stainless Saltwater Hook
- Orange/White/Black Double Pupil Eyes
- Gold Crystal Flash
- Orange Fox Fur Tail
- Barred Orange Rubber Legs
- Tan Chenille Body
- #30 Pound Mono Loop for keel
- 4 x 5/16 beads
- Tan Rabbit Strip Wings
- Orange Thread



## So what is all this stuff about a partnership

*“The Fieldworkers Club, A critical partnership between anglers and scientists”*

In April 2010, I learned that in most cases scientists are very good at science and anglers are (in most cases) good at catching fish. Without one the other could not be as successful when it comes to capturing adult migratory tarpon. This lesson came as a byproduct of my first hand experience on a tarpon tagging expedition in Everglades National Park. I was invited along to be a “hired hand” fly angler with no other purpose than to catch fish (a task that didn’t seem so very difficult to accomplish). The overall goal of the expedition was to fit adult migratory tarpon with state-of-the-art satellite-tags to track their movements, habitat use and migrations as part of a broader study in collaboration with the *Tarpon and Bonefish Research Center* at the University of Miami. The immediate end result of that effort was our team deployed 5 satellite tags on huge tarpon! In the months after that experience I had plenty of time to think through what really happened in those 2 short days. What I came to was the fact that had it not been for the fish catching success of the two other anglers and I, that expedition would have been a scientific bust.

Really what I walked away from that experience with was the inspiration for what has now become The Fieldworkers Club. You see, when the tag was placed into that very first 150+ pound tarpon a light bulb went off. I thought to myself, what could be more valuable to any thoughtful angler than an opportunity to use his or her skills to advance the world’s understanding of the very thing they love so much. I also came away with the understanding that the scientific community needs the help of folks just like us to succeed. A perfect partnership and all about synergy and enablement.

Prior to that experience it was easy to use the word “they” when thinking about the folks who actually do the work of finding out what makes our natural world tick. I realized the concept of “they” is really limited thinking but it’s a very easy trap to fall into. It’s the notion that it’s someone else’s job (the guys with the letters PhD after their name) to figure out the puzzle pieces of how to solve the modern day world’s environmental usage issues. I always thought I was adequately contributing by giving a few bucks at fundraising banquets and sending in a check every now and again. What I learned was how wrong I really was.

The “they” is really us and if we want to leave this planet better than we found it for our children and our children’s, children then we as a community must participate in efforts to work together to enable world class research. The future is really in our hands... If you love tarpon join our partnership and help us pave the way to a brighter future for the Silver King

# CUBA 2017

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**APRIL 21-29**

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This is your chance to join the Fieldworks Club Team headed to Jardiens De La Reina for the 2017 Cuba Tarpon Tagging Expedition.

Watch this video to learn about out the fishing, Cuba and mother ship Tortuga.

<https://vimeo.com/141796813>

Contact Adam for more information;

<mailto:adam@fieldworkersclub.com>

312-440-1200

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## FACEBOOK LIVE

Take a few minutes to watch this exciting new Facebook Live Broadcast to learn about the Fieldworkers Club and our partnership activities in Cuba and Belize

So far over 2000 people have watched!!!

<https://vimeo.com/206621550>

## 2017 Cuba Permit Trip

The 2017 Fieldworkers Club Cuba Permit Trip will take place May 26-June 2, 2017 and be headquartered on the super luxurious live-aboard yacht Avalon Fleet 1 in Cayo Cruz, Cuba. This is an absolutely prime spring season permit week with just a few spots remaining. There will be 6 guided fishing days and comprehensive daily permit fly fishing workshops. Plan on enjoying long days fly fishing in one of the world's most exclusive and exciting saltwater destinations. Spend your

evenings learning tactics for successful permit fly rodding from one of the most passionate and accomplished permit angler's in the world. Trip fees include lodging, guided fishing, meals/soft drinks, exclusive expedition workshops & activities, a trip shirt and all of the other benefits of the Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers experience.



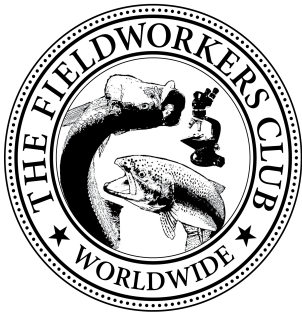
*May 26-June 2*

*Cayo Cruz – Cuba*

Complete information:

<https://www.fieldworkersclub.com/2017-cuba-permit-trip.html>

*We lead scientific Fly Fishing Expeditions with a Mission*



*Belize Tarpon Tagging Expedition*

*August 12-19*



Join us for the Belize Tarpon Tagging Expedition August 12-19, 2017 at El Pescador Lodge and Villas. There will be 6, guided fishing days and daily tarpon fishing workshops. Expect to come home from this expedition with the knowledge you were part of a team doing everything it can to advance tarpon research in Belize. Plan on learning about tarpon and tarpon fishing from the finest and most passionate tarpon anglers in the world. We can't wait to share what we know and look forward to enhancing your tarpon fishing for the rest of your life. El Pescador is a great place for families too! Complete information: <https://www.fieldworkersclub.com/2017-belize-tarpon-tagging-expedition.html>