



Presented by Fly Fishers International - Gulf Coast Council

2025 Gulf Coast Classic

May 2-3, 2025

Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, AL

www.ffigulfcoastclassic.com

The Gulf Coast Council (GCC) of Fly Fishers International (FFI) is proud to present our 3rd annual **Gulf Coast Classic** fly fishing festival, to be held Friday-Saturday, May 2-3, 2025, 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 have been expanded beyond anything the FFI Gulf Coast Council has previously offered to the fly fishing community.

Among the activities planned:

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

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

Once again, 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'll again have our unique fishing tournament – our Mixed Bag Challenge focuses 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 once again hold our annual film festival, featuring several short films that celebrate our sport and share stories of human endearment and conservation efforts. Tickets will be available for purchase early 2025!

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 March 1st – 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 April 1st, 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. **Check out the attached form for complete details!**

*** 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 ***

