



The Prez Sez *by Tom Gadacz*



8th ANNUAL HOG ROAST and 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It was great to see and honor the past presidents (Alan Sewell, Dave McKay, Enver Hysni, Martin Skelly and Ken Hofmeister) at our annual hog roast

Ken Hofmeister received the Vision and Values award. Ken has supported our vision of making SFF Florida's leading fly-fishing club, helping members have more fun fly-casting, fly-fishing, and fly-tying, and gaining new knowledge and/or skill at every meeting and event. He has supported our values of meeting members' needs, friendliness, and constant improvement. Ken thanks for your many contributions and leadership!

Awards for the 2010-2011 Fishing Tournament were Ken Doty for largest bass, Joe Dail for largest bluegill, Don Manning for largest trout, Ken Doty for largest snook and Mark Hays for largest other fish (31" gar).

I hope you had a chance to see the photo album of the earlier club meetings and outings. If you did not, it will be at the membership meeting.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to the fun and success of this event. The guided trips (Dan Bumgarner, Pat Damico, Dave Dant, and Dayle Mazzarella) were great). There were some good bargains at the auction tables and valuable items in the raffle buckets. Alan Sewell donated the custom built rod with a reel and line as the door prize, which was won by Ted Rich. The kayak was won by Andy Constantinou. Captain Bob provided a great selection of ballads and Leroy served some mighty tasty BBQ with great sides. The anniversary cake was well decorated and delicious. Many members brought additional deserts, which were greatly appreciated and disappeared very quickly. Special thanks to all who made this event a lot of fun and especially those on the committee (Joe Dail, Pat Damico, Tom Gadacz, Myron Hansen, Marianne Hays, Mark Hays, Rick Kelly, Richard Oldenski, Al Pitcher, Alan Sewell, and Tom Trukenbrod). Woody did a superb job conducting the silent auction and raffles.

EVERGLADES and MARINE QUEST

We have competing events at the end of the month. The trip to the Everglades is April 29, 30, and May 1. See Paul Sequira's article about everything you need to know about fishing the Everglades (pages 10 & 11). There are a limited number of rooms at a discounted rate at the **La Quinta Inn** at 13651 2nd St. NW in Sunrise, FL 33325. Call Gladys as soon as possible at 954-846-1200 to make your reservation and mention the SFF reservation. The discounted rate is \$133.88 for 2 nights including tax and other charges. The non-discounted rate is \$190 for 2 nights and does not include taxes. For those who would like to participate, we plan to have a group dinner around 6:00PM on Friday and Saturday night. The details should be at the registration desk.

For those who do not have a boat or partner, rentals are available at **Everglades Holiday Park** located at 21940 Griffin Rd, Ft. Lauderdale. Their phone number is 954-434-8111. You can get a discount on the rental by downloading a coupon on www.evergladesholidaypark.com/coupon.

For those not planning on making the Everglades trip, please sign up with Bill AuCoin (727-528-0287) for **Marine Quest**. It is Saturday April 30 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at 100 8th Ave. SE in St. Petersburg. This is a fun event with lots of adventuresome kids who just might become a future fly fisher and a SFF member. Bring an extra vice and help them tie a fly. ...*Tom*

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 23 - Club Outing at Pinellas Point
- Apr 27 - May 11 Fly Tying Workshop
- Apr 29 - May 1 Special Everglades trip
- Apr 30 - Marine Quest

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Outings—Reviews & Previews by Alan Sewell



April Outing: Apr. 23, 2011 Pinellas Point

March Outing: Mar. 19, 2011

The Suncoast Fly Fishers had a well attended and productive Casting Clinic, taught by Capt. Pat Damico held at Ft. DeSoto on that Saturday. Many students and pros showed up to get some really good lessons from Pat. Everyone said that this was a great day with beautiful weather. After the clinic we had our annual Pig Roast banquet.

April Outing: Apr. 23, 2011

Our club will have our April outing fishing the flats of Pinellas Point. This is a good area for wading and boats may be launched at the Bay Vista or Maximo park ramps. Good redfish and trout fishing has been reported. The monthly prize will be

for the largest redfish. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. at Bay Vista Park. We don't know what Richard & Mark have planned for lunch but you can be sure it will be good. Don't be late!

Future Outing Previews:

May 21, 2011— Night Time dock light fishing

June 18, 2011— Manatee Reservoir

Special SFF Event — April 29,30, and May 1 Everglades

2011—2012 Yearly Fishing Tournament

All species are ready to be claimed for the year.

April 21st Program and Designated Tyer

Steve Gibson of Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing will be our guest speaker this month. Steve who is no stranger to SFF having visited us several times, is a professional fishing guide specializing in kayaking fishing trips. Steve fishes the waters of the southern Tampa Bay area for all the inshore saltwater species and Florida's freshwater lakes and streams for bass, bluegill, tilapia, speckled perch and catfish; and is well versed in fishing the Everglades. This month, Steve will show us his PowerPoint presentation about snook fishing on the beach.

Steve, is also a well known and innovative fly tyer and our designated tyer this month. He will demonstrate his favorite beach snook fly, "Gibby's D.T. Variation" at the early bird session starting at 6:30 pm.*PS*

Annie Hays to Attend the Bighorn River Youth Adventure - 2011

Annie is one of 12 youths invited by the Bighorn River Youth Adventure for a four day fly tying and fly fishing adventure. This program is sponsored by the Bighorn River Alliance and FFF. The program is at Fort Smith, MT on the banks of the world famous Bighorn River from June 22-27 (travel days included). Annie completed an application which included questions about her fly fishing experience and three essay questions. "Why do you like fly fishing and what is your favorite thing about fly fishing? Why do you like fly tying? Why would you like to take part in "Bighorn River Youth Adventure 2011"? The program selected youngsters based on their interest to learn the joy of a 'big time' fly fishing adventure and are willing to mentor other youths in this great sport. To encourage this mentorship they ask that all participants provide a report to the Alliance highlighting their Youth Adventure experience. The Alliance also asks all participants to share their experience with an organization of their choice after returning home. Congratulations Annie and we are very proud to have you as a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers! We will plan on Annie giving her report at a membership meeting.*Tom Gadacz*

SFF Information and Activities

March 19 Casting Clinic A Great Success! *By Pat Damico MCI*

Twenty-six SFF members enjoyed Richard Oldenski's coffee and donuts as they prepared for a perfect morning of casting instruction. A large number were beginners who took advantage of this club benefit. Master Instructor Pat Damico and Certified Instructor Chris O'Byrne were joined by club instructors Ken Doty and Charlie Most. After the clinic some members applied their skills to the bountiful waters of Ft. DeSoto to work up an appetite for our Hog Roast the same evening. Thanks again to all who participated.



Capt Pat Damico demonstrates a proper cast at the March 19th Casting Clinic at Ft DeSoto Photo by Chris O'Byrne

OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS - 2011

Dan Bumgarner, Hugh Copeland and Pat Damico were elected to the Board of Directors for 2 years. Roger Blanton was appointed to fulfill the term as Treasurer and Paul Sequira was appointed to fulfill the term as Board Director. A complete list of officers and board members is on page 19.

We greatly appreciated Joe Dail agreeing to serve as Treasurer this past year. A great job done!

New Members in March as of 3-31-2011

This month we had several new members, many who attended the Tampa Bay Boat Show. We welcome Cyril Brockmeier from Tampa, Ray Cianci from St. Petersburg, Robert Gron from St. Petersburg, Dave Horwits from Tampa, Jim Merrick from St. Petersburg, Chris O'Byrne from Mulberry who helped with the casting clinic, George and Eileen Orsi from St. Petersburg and Rick & Karen Warfel of Apollo Beach. It was great to see many of them at the casting clinic as well at the hog roast.

Fly Tying Workshop

Tom Jones will be conducting a Fly Tying Workshop teaching basic tying skills and techniques for beginning fly tyers as well as individuals who have some tying experience but would like additional training. This is a four lesson course with weekly classes starting on April 27th. Classes will be held at the same location as last year, the conference room at John Craig's place of business High Performance Plumbing Services. Full details of the workshop and directions to the class location are on pages 8 & 9. Tom will have a sign up sheet at the April 21st meeting. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to attend the tying workshop, call Tom Jones at 727-667-4112 or email him at tomstpete@ij.net

FLY TYERS

The 6:30 fly tying demonstration session prior to the meeting is a very popular feature. Members are always interested in new flies, different methods of tying old flies or just some well known fly that might not have been demonstrated in a while. Old tried and true patterns are new to new fly fishers and are very interesting to them. We need members who are willing to share their fly tying skills with their fellow members. If you would like to volunteer as a featured fly tyer, please see Dan Bumgarner at the meeting or call him at 727-526-7565.

ON RECEIVING THE SFF VISION/VALUES AWARD

by Ken Hofmeister

At the 2011 Pig Roast I was honored and surprised to receive the SFF VISION/VALUES AWARD. I was also humbled when I thought of the several other SFF members who excelled in friendliness, constant improvement, or meeting member needs. These members remain my role models in translating the vision/values into observable behaviors.

When I worked (another life before I picked up a fly rod), I had some VIP sales awards on the wall. In 2006 I proudly hung a “largest sunfish” award. That was followed by the “largest bass” (although Ann said there should have been no “b” in bass)! Certainly, the Carl Hanson award was a highlight because of his legacy and his impact upon so many club members. However, the Vision/Values award stands out as most meaningful and significant. It too, focuses on observable behaviors that lead to results. In this case the result is a culture change.

Wow!

Because of the value “constant improvement” I now cast better, tie better, and have more fun catching more fish. The improvement is ongoing so long as I hang out with the SFF crowd. SFF has improved more than a few fly fishers. We’ve also improved our processes—“the way we do things.” I am proud to be a part of helping members to find better ways to translate our vision into reality. It’s been a joy to see the evolution of web sites, newsletters, and events.

When I have good—or bad news to share, I find myself calling SFF members who have become my friends. What a club! You made me feel welcome even before I knew how little I know about fly fishing. Isn’t it great to be a part of a group that is so inclusive, unpretentious, and hilarious? Where else are we going to observe so much teasing, laughing, and joking that goes on over a few fish?

Visitors often comment on the “friendliness” of SFF members as a reason they elected to join our club. These new members join for lots of reasons other than our fellowship. Some want to learn to cast or tie better. Others want to know where and how to catch fish on the fly. Still others want some fishing buddies who will encourage them to get out on the water. I found all of this in SFF. And I got a kick out of helping to meet member needs. What fun to see someone catch a first fish on a fly they tied (or won at an auction raffle) —having a great time fishing a new spot with old friends!

In June, our president will distribute a survey to determine how well SFF meets member needs. This is an excellent opportunity to ensure that your needs are known and your satisfaction registered. It is a great way to identify ways to continuously improve what we do.

Receiving this award has caused me to renew my efforts to do and say those things that meet member needs, contribute to constant improvement, and demonstrate friendliness.

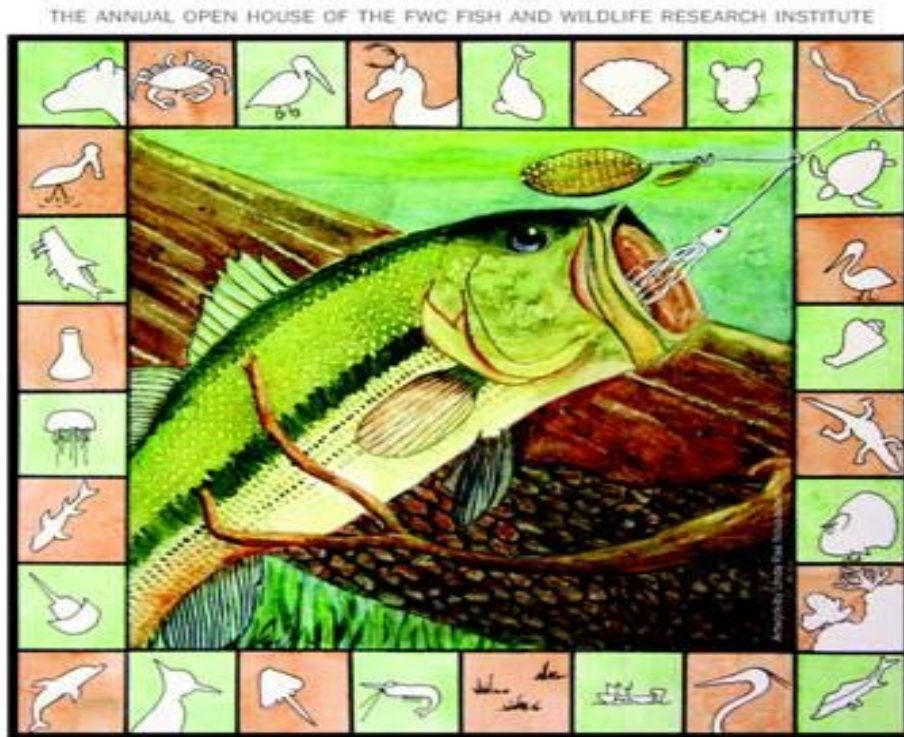
Thank you for the privilege.Ken



Ken Hofmeister receives SFF’s 2011 Vision & Values Award from Tom Gadacz Photo by Paul Sequira

SFF Activities and Information

Volunteers needed—See Bill AuCoin at the meeting or call him at 727-528-0287



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Brad Lowman - Brad's Lucky Fly Bassin' by Bill AuCoin

Brad Lowman was fishing alone in his boat on the St. Johns River one late afternoon when he set the hook on a big bass. With a 3-weight.

Luckily, there were eyewitnesses.

Restaurant patrons up on the hill watched the touch-and-go struggle from their water-view windows. When Brad finally lifted the eight-pounder from the water he noted the applause and cheers of diners who had walked down to the shoreline to see this epic's finale.

Brad asked, "Please could somebody take my picture?" Why, yes, said an attractive woman of about Brad's age. With her cell phone she snapped Brad posing with his lunker and emailed it to him.

If there were more communications with his photographer, Brad didn't say. But talking to Suncoast Fly Fishers at the March meeting, Brad did confess to a long-time love affair with catching bass on a fly rod.

One rendezvous he did acknowledge took place at a pond behind a Starbucks. After a couple of sips of his Grande he looked the pond over and noted that it looked rather neglected by anglers. That's a good thing. It might hold a 3-pounder, he thought. And, in fact, it did.

Which Starbucks? Brad didn't say.

This fly fisher courts bass all over the state. The back of his SUV usually carries all the gear he might need. His go-to bass rod is an 8-weight. Nine out of ten times he's casting floating line. The leader is six feet of Mason hard type 20-pound line with three feet of fluorocarbon line testing 8, 10 or 12 pounds. So long as he can turn over the streamer or bug, this is Lowman's bass leader. Fewer leader knots are better. Knots are weak links, you know.

Bass live out their lives following bass rules: The biggest bass gets the best ambush points. Structure like downed trees are prime, particularly if that fallen timber is the only decent point of structure in an otherwise featureless H2O desert. If you catch Mr. Big he automatically surrenders his prime feeding place to another. Wait a few minutes and return.

Edges. Seams. This and that. Bass are opportunistic feeders so you'll find them where this river meets that creek, where one kind of weedline meets another (lots of nutrients here), where the water-color changes, where shallow meets deep, where light lines meet shadows.

Wild shiners and shad are on the menu, certainly. Small bass gorge on gizzard shad. Lowman's Lucky Fly is a chartreuse Clouser, a shiner imitation, a wide-profile streamer that pushes water. Bass sense that motion on their lateral lines.

In dark conditions he fishes a dark fly. The reasoning is that bass (with eyes positioned for looking up) will more likely notice a dark fly looking up against the lighter sky.

Opportunists that they are bass will feed on, well, whatever. Mice. Ducks. Redwind blackbirds, yes. Summer grasshoppers. Ants, even. In addition to his wide profile Clouser, Lowman casts poppers, deceivers, woolly buggers and even bead eye trout nymphs.



Brad Lowman tells us how to catch the big ones. AuCoin photo

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Brad's Lucky Fly Bassin'continued

Lowman prefers the classic bass habitat lakes of central Florida like, well, Lake Kissimmee. In recent months he and SFF member Capt. Pat Damico have been exploiting an area on the upper Manatee River.

Where exactly on the Manatee? Brad didn't say.

Sometimes, after he has spent the day fishing the salt, Lowman hears the call of the St. Johns River, not far from where he lives. It's a twofer. One, he can give his outboard cooling system a real freshwater flushing. Two, he can cast his Lucky Fly for a lunger.

That eight pounder bass he caught and released by the restaurant has been slurping down ducks and who knows what else. She should weigh about nine pounds, maybe ten, don't you think?

Maybe somebody in the restaurant will see him again and record the event with her cell phone camera.

Contact information

Brad Lowman

Phone: 1-727-484-0065

Email: flyfisfs@aol.com



A big one about to be released - AuCoin Photo

Casting Tips by Capt. Pat Damico, MCI

Casting tip # 16 How do I deal with a strong wind at my back?

This common problem is handled opposite the wind coming into your face. Instead of a high backcast and a low forward cast, make a low backcast and a high forward cast. A tight loop on the backcast will penetrate the wind better and changing your casting plane to allow a high delivery will allow the wind to help carry your line and fly further. A Belgian cast is very useful. Sometimes called a continuous tension cast with the rod constantly loaded until delivery, the rod does not stop on the backcast. Your cast will also change planes. Pick up the line and start the cast horizontally and deliver the cast vertically, again allowing the wind to help. Using only a good roll cast, which eliminates your backcast, is another simple solution.

Fly Fishing Tips by Jeff Janecek

I've noticed that a lot of fly fisherman don't keep the rod tip down; when retrieving the fly. Besides having to take up the slack before setting the hook, there's one more very important point to make. The top water flies don't have any action gliding along while someone pulls in the flyline, with the rod tip a foot above the water. I actually have the tip of my flyrod a ¼ inch below the surface. This creates a lot of drag on the fly. A fast 10 inch strip results in the fly pushing a lot of water, but barely moving forward. Besides creating a nice big wake...the fly stays in the strike area longer. This action is guaranteed to get a lot more fish at the end of the day.

Fly Tying Workshop with Tom Jones

SFF Fly Tying Workshop, Coming Up!

This workshop will teach basic fly tying skills to members who have had no, or very little previous fly tying experience and lay the foundation to begin a hobby that will give you years of pleasure. Patient step-by-step techniques will have you tying a pattern that will catch fish on the very first night. You will tie both salt water and fresh water flies. This is another way to educate and help make us all better fly fisherman. We all remember the fish we first caught with one of our own creations... a priceless moment!

Dates/Times: Wednesday, April 27, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Wednesday, May 4, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am - 10:30 am
Wednesday, May 11, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Location: John Craig's conference room at his place of business High Performance Plumbing Service at 4450 Morris Street N ((From intersection of 35th street and 38th Ave, N. go north on 35th St. After crossing RR track veer to left, look for two gray buildings on the left about middle of the block. The northern most building is HPPS. Phone number there is 727 323-7243).

Faculty: Tom Jones

Class size will be limited to a maximum of eight students so that the instructor may give personal attention to students as needed. So R.S.V.P. ASAP to reserve your place.

List Of Tools and Materials:

The following is a list of the tools and fly tying materials that will be required for this workshop. It is wise to purchase the best quality tools you can afford. Bargain basement tools are of poor quality, will never perform well and generally make your tying experience difficult rather than the enjoyable and pleasant pastime it can and should be. Good quality tools, although more expensive will last a lifetime. Purchase these items individually from a reputable fly shop (such as the shops that advertise in our newsletter) rather than a fly tying kit. Most of those kits contain many items that are poor quality and materials that you may never use.

For your convenience, a ballpark estimate of costs for each of the items listed below is included. These estimates were taken from the catalog of a well-known fly tying tools and materials dealer. The fly tying vise will be your largest expense and can run anywhere from \$30 to several hundred dollars depending upon quality and features. A good quality vise that will serve you well for many years is going to cost in the range of \$150 to \$200. When choosing a vise, be sure that the jaws are capable of holding salt water style hooks in excess of size 2. The jaws and locking device are usually the first parts to fail on inexpensive vises. If you are unsure of how serious you are about fly tying and have a fly tying friend who might loan you some tools, that might be a way to go to test the waters, so to speak.



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Fly Tying Workshop with Tom Jones ...continued

Fly Tying Workshop Tools

1. Vise (\$30 or more, see 2nd paragraph above)
 2. Dubbing Needle (\$3)
 3. Scissors - 4" all purpose (\$15)
 4. Thread Bobbin (\$10)
 5. Bobbin Threader/Cleaner (\$3)
 6. Whip Finisher (optional) (\$9)
- Total tools approximately \$70.

Tying Supplies

1. Thread – 3/0 pre waxed nylon (or similar) (\$3)
2. Head cement (Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails is a good substitute) (\$5)
3. Buck Tail (deer tail) one natural and one dyed (chartreuse is a good color) (2 @ \$5 each - \$10)
4. Krystal Flash silver or pearl (\$4)
5. Saddle hackle (strung) – white & black (\$6)
6. Marabou (strung blood feathers) – white, yellow, and either black or olive (\$6)
7. Lead Hourglass Eyes (aka, barbell eyes) (painted white) – Medium (package of 20 \$5) (may substitute bead chain)
8. 1/8" Thick Fly Foam Sheet – white \$4).
9. Rubber Legs – thin (\$2)
10. Deer body hair (white & natural) (2 @ \$5 each - \$10)
11. white & green Polarfibre (2 @ \$3.89 each - \$7.78)
12. yellow & black plastic eyes w/posts removed (\$2.00)
13. Black or olive chenille (\$1.89)
14. 20-30 lb monofilament (about a foot per fly)

Total materials approximately \$66.67

Hooks

1. Mustad 3407 size 1 or 2 (box of 100 \$8)
 2. Mustad 3366 size 8 (box of 100 \$4)
- (Hooks may often be purchased in smaller packages.)
- Total hooks approximately \$12.

Grand Total \$148.67. (This may seem to be a huge investment but these materials will serve you for many years to come with little more to buy.)

A list of the flies that we will be learning in this series will be distributed when you sign up.

What's The Story On Fishing The Everglades?

by Paul Sequira

If you've heard about SFF's annual special club trip to fish the Everglades, and never joined in on this event, you probably have a few questions. After all, "The Everglades" covers a lot of acreage in south Florida so just what are we talking about? At previous club meetings, many questions were asked and much excellent information was offered. I'll review some of those questions and provide information that I think will be helpful to those who have never fished there.



Typical view of Everglades canal system

Where do we fish in the Everglades? The canals right along Alligator Alley (I-75) in the general vicinity (about 5 miles west of the tollbooth) of the intersection with Route 27. This is known as the Miami Canal system. As you are traveling east on Alligator Alley you will see pull-offs from the highway with parking lots and boat ramps on both the north and south sides of the roadway. They are located near mile markers 31, 32, 38 and 41. Also, there are three boat ramps along Rt 27 (north of I-75) giving you access to these north/south-running canals. This is known as the New River Canal system. Somewhat further north on Rt 27 is another excellent fairly new canal access called Holey Land with plenty of parking and a first class boat ramp.

Go to Google Earth to view these locations. A listing of boat ramp locations along with GPS coordinates can be found at the website "Inshore Boat Ramps in SE Florida, Broward County" <http://www.inshore.com/br-brwd.html> The ramps we are interested in are the last three entries in the list.

Everglades Holiday Park has excellent access to a large canal system (the New River Canal - South system) and is located off Rt 27 (about 5 miles south of I-75) on Griffin Road (the first traffic light you come to on Rt 27). There are boats with outboard motors available for rent here. Go to <http://www.evergladesholidaypark.com/> for more information and excellent directions and map.

Where do you stay? A convenient and comfortable place to stay is the LaQuinta Inn Sunrise Sawgrass Mills, 13651 N.W. Second St, Sunrise, FL 33325 tel. 954-846-1200. Directions and map at <http://go.reservediscounthotels.com/hotel/propertydetails/134566/MAPS?isHRN=true&cid=265820> Also, campsites are available at Everglades Holiday Park tel. 954-434-8111, see link in preceding paragraph for directions and map. Both of these locations are a reasonable drive from all of the fishing spots listed above.

Can you wade fish in the Glades? The short answer is no. Although the water depth in the canals varies depending upon rainfall and how much water is being released into them, the average depth is said to be approximately 18' to 20'. Also, there are many very large alligators that claim residence in the canals and everything swimming there can be of great interest to them.

What kind of boat is needed? Canoes, Ghenoës and boats under 18' are excellent choices. Because of the large alligators resident in the canals, kayaks may not be a good choice. Due to the condition and size of some of the boat ramps, boats in excess of 18' may not be the best choice for the canals. An electric trolling motor in addition to your outboard motor is very helpful. Jon boats with outboard motors can be rented at Everglades Holiday Park; however, these boats cannot be removed from this canal system. This is not a handicap, I have hooked my largest bass to date in this canal, and there are also peacock bass in this canal system.

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Fishing The Evergladescontinued

What size fly rod is recommended? Any 4 or 5 weight fly rod in whatever length you are comfortable with will work. Long casts are not necessary when fishing the canals. In most of them, if you run your boat down the middle, you can easily cast to either side of the canal. If you enjoy throwing larger poppers, a 6 weight rod is helpful.

What flies are recommended? Everyone has their favorite flies for bream and bass fishing; but if I could have only one fly to fish the Glades, it would be a white foam spider or beetle tied on #8 or #10 hooks. Many flies work, in fact I don't know of any fly that doesn't work in the Glades. I like to fish top water and in addition to the foam spiders and beetles, I really enjoy fishing poppers in white or yellow colors, on #6, #8 or #10 hooks. However, the fish don't seem to have a color preference; I know that chartreuse and fluorescent pink poppers also work very well. The determining factor seems to be whatever color you can see best. I have also found small Deep Clousers to be very productive when you find schools of bass chasing small minnows. You'll often find this situation around little creek-like runoffs into the canals. I like the Little Brown River Clouser but I'm sure other colors such as gray/white etc would work just as well. I have had success with weighted nymphs such as Jim's Bead Head Nymph and Bully's Bluegill Spider. Most of the flies mentioned here are described in the fly tying section of SFF's website www.suncoastflyfishers.com

What kind of fish can I expect to catch in the Everglades? Bluegills, redear sunfish, spotted sunfish, warmouths etc, large mouth bass, peacock bass, bowfin, Florida gar, oscars, and Mayan cichlids are the fish most commonly caught. We have just gone through a couple of record breaking cold winters for Florida and this has had a bad affect on some of the exotics, but the fishing there is normally so good, you will still catch a lot of fish and have a terrific time. For an incredible list of fish commonly found in Everglades waters go to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/SouthFlorida/everglades.html>

There you have it, all the information you need to fish the Everglades canals, even if it is your first trip there. Barring anymore bad weather, I feel safe in saying that fishing in the Everglades will be an opportunity for you to catch more fish in any one days fishing than you have ever experienced before. Also, you will have a terrific time with your SFF friends with lots of good stories to tell when you return.

Below: Ted Rich (left) and Joe Dail (right) showing what may be waiting for you on your trip



Tying Bench — J.J. Hopper by Jeff Janecek

Jeff's J.J. Hopper is a nice all foam grass hopper imitation that has proven to be one of his most productive flies. The chartreuse colored foam provides good floatation and is easy to see.

Materials:

Hook: 2X thin wire #8

Thread: chartreuse flat waxed nylon

Body: 1/8" thick chartreuse craft foam

Eye: 1/8" thick black craft foam

Legs: Black on chartreuse centipede rubber legs

Tying Instructions:

- Place 2x thin wire #8 hook in vise. Wrap chartreuse flat wax thread, from hook eye, to bend of hook and back to middle.
- Cut a 3/8" by 4" piece of craft foam and cut an arrow on one end. Face the arrow to the hook eye, in the middle of the hook shank. Wrap arrow very tightly. Then 1/8th wraps up to the hook bend.
- Place two fingers over foam with left hand. Using right hand, tie 1/4" away; forming a round abdomen. Wrap up to behind hook eye. Tie three equal segments from abdomen. to hook eye.
- Cut a 1/2" by 1/2" square from black craft foam. With thread behind hook eye, place square over hook eye; to form a triangle. Tie just the tip of the triangle. Cut the black square horizontal and wrap chartreuse foam over toward abdomen.. Trim just behind head, follow three segments to abdomen.
- Use black on chartreuse centipede legs, tie a knot 1 1/2" from end, place over abdomen. Patiently wait till there is a nice 45 degree angle away from fly, tie over three segments to just behind head, cut leg 1" away from head. Repeat for opposite side .Whip finish.
- Use flex cement in between legs. Trim front legs to 1/2" long and squeeze rear legs together and cut to 1" long.



J.J. Hopper from top: side view and top view. Tied by Jeff Janecek. Sequeira photos

A few tying and fishing tips

I buy flex cement from an archery store. It does not dry the rubber legs. I get centipede legs from "THE FLY SHOP" online or Cabelas. I like thin wire hooks as they are very sharp and need a very little hook set. Use 6 to 8lb tippet. Retrieve in 1" strips with little pauses. Very deadly on Withalacoochee, Weeki Wachee, Hillsborough, and Rainbow rivers. I prefer a 3 wt when fishing these rivers. It loads up instantly and is very accurate. Use a 2 ft off the water backcast to stay clear of any branches. If distracted and you do get snagged...it is very easy to free at this height. Get very accurate with your casting always looking for a target and not just casting. Challenge yourself with that little nook or just under that branch. Your accuracy will increase and you just might be rewarded with a little surprise also. Explore ponds around your home. It is fun to be fishing than to just practicing in the yard. I've found ponds that when I have an hour of free time.. I visit. Try a 3wt it will hone your timing skills and teach you not to muscle a fly rod. Not to mention, a nice bluegill is a blast to fight with..

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Our Aims and Purpose

The Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and saltwater. We shall promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly tying, rod building, fly casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship, we will help members become more skilled, have more fun and be more productive in the sport. Suncoast Fly Fishers support the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

BENEFITS OF SUNCOAST FLY FISHER MEMBERSHIP

- Monthly membership meetings with outstanding local speakers on fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, marine conservation and exotic fishing trips worldwide.
- Free fly casting, fly tying & knot tying instructions.
- Monthly club outings in local fresh and saltwater locales topped off with top notch lunches and story telling of the day's catch.
- Joint outings with other clubs in Florida.
- Monthly electronic newsletters with local fishing and club activity information plus fly tying instruction sheets and color photos.
- A professional website with fishing reports, links, club activity photos etc.
- Club hats and shirts.
- Annual award winning Pig Roast with first class auction.
- Charter club of the Federation of Fly Fishers.
- Make new friends and find a fishing buddy for your next fishing adventure.

Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any of these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

- Casting Skills - Pat Damico
- FFF Liaison - Pat Damico
- Fly Tying - Alan Sewell
- Membership - Pat Damico & Joe Dail
- Newsletter - Paul Sequeira
- Outings - Alan Sewell
- Publicity - Roger Blanton
- Programs - BOD
- Project Healing Waters - Terry Kirkpatrick & John Craig
- Raffles - Tom Hummel & Bryan Jankovic
- Shows & Special Events - Woody Miller
- Web Editor - Woody Miller



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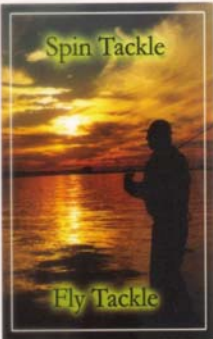
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SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) and Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) Dues

At initial membership dues are collected for both SFF and FFF. Since we (SFF) are a Charter member of FFF, all SFF members have to be members of FFF. After the initial dues you are responsible to directly pay yearly dues to FFF. The dues period of SFF and FFF may not coincide. We do not collect the yearly dues for the Federation (FFF). You will receive dues notification directly from FFF.

SFF dues are due in September. This is for the remaining months of 2009 and then through August of 2010. Members whose dues are delinquent for 2 or more months may lose their SFF membership. See Tom Gadacz for renewal forms.

LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Dan Bumgarner, Tampa Bay 727-526-7565

Capt. Frank Bourgeois Offshore Hernando Cty 352-666-6234

Capt. Dave Chouinard, Tampa Bay 732-610-9700

Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay 727-360-6466

Capt. Dave Dant, Tampa Bay 727-744-9039

Capt. Rick Grasset, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Hbr, Tampa Bay 941-923-7799

Capt. Pete Greenan, Boca Grande, Everglades 941-923-6095

Capt. Paul Hawkins, Tampa Bay 727-560-6762

Capt. Ray Markham Sarasota and Tampa Bay 941-723-2655

Capt. Russ Shirley, Tampa Bay 727-343-1957

Capt. Wayne Simmons Tampa Bay Area 727-204-4188

Capt. Steve Soult, Nature Coast Area 352-686-0853

Capt. Jason Stock, St. Petersburg-Englewood, 727-459-5899.

Jim Swann - fresh water 352-567-6029

Wading The Saltwater Flats With A Fly Rod and Random Thoughts From The Tying Bench By Don Coleman

With the original printing of Don's book, SFF gave a copy to all current and then new members when they joined the club. We have a good supply of these books; if you are a recent new member who did not receive a copy, please see Joe Dail at the meeting or call him at 727-725-7638.

Other members who would like an additional copy or non-members who would like a copy may purchase one for \$5.00 (plus postage if mailing is required). This book is loaded with excellent information and is a wonderful keepsake of a much missed member and friend of the club.

SFF Picture Gallery



SFF members at the March 11/13 Tampa Bay Boat Show (left) Capt Pat Damico at his fly fishing seminar (right) members John Day and Woody Miller drew in show attendees with their expert tying while Alan Sewell and Hugh Copeland kibitz. Photos: Pat Damico



Left: Ten year old Dave McKay started tying at age 4 and shows his sisters just how its done. McKay photo
 (right) Jeff Janecek was our featured fly tyer at the March meeting.
 (below) Jeff's excellent tying drew the crowd in with his interesting flies and thorough tying instructions. AuCoin photos



SFF 2011 Pig Roast & 20th Anniversary



Some random photos from the 2011 Pig Roast. Looks like everyone is having a good time. AuCoin & Sequira photos

SFF 2011 Pig Roast & 20th Anniversary



Some more shots of the 2011 Pig Roast festivities.. Pick out your friends. Sorry I couldn't print them all - Sequira photos

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Tom Gadacz 727-360-8030

Vice President: Woody Miller 727-560-6086

Secretary: Ken Hofmeister

Treasurer: Roger Blanton

Board of Directors

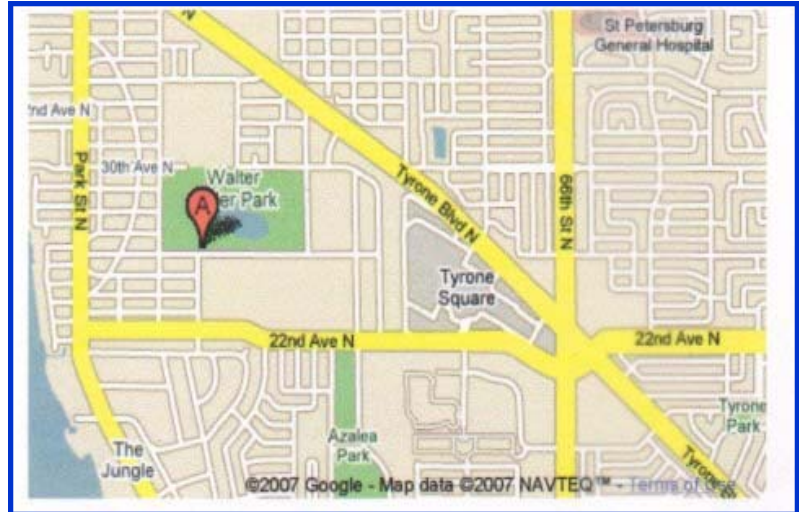
Dan Bumgarner - Hugh Copeland

Mark Craig - Pat Damico - Ken Doty

Paul Sequira - Alan Sewell

“On the Fly” is the monthly newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a not-for-profit organization offering fly fishing and fly tying instruction to members and visitors. Club membership includes newsletter subscription. Send e-mail submissions to the editor, Paul Sequira

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



Next Club Meeting: April 21, 2011

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM Outdoor Activities & Fly Tying

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Walter Fuller Park

7891 26 Avenue, N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Program - Steve Gibson, Beach Snook Fishing

Featured Fly Tyer - Steve Gibson

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com/>

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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