Volume 21, Issue 11

November, 2011

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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# The Prez Sez by Tom Gadacz



# **Casting Clinic and Outing**

On November 19 we will have our semi-annual casting clinic at Fort DeSoto from 9:00 to 11:30, followed by lunch and then our outing from noon to 3:00 PM. Pat Damico, a certified FFF master casting instructor, and his crew will provide a great opportunity to improve your casting skills. We wish to emphasize especially to all new members that this is a great time to learn or improve your fly casting skills. This clinic is for those who want to learn to be good fly casters. Learning the basic techniques of fly casting will allow you to develop good skills. Some of us started without much instruction or coaching and have picked up some bad habits that require more work to unlearn. Get off to a good start with good technical skills and you will soon be casting 60 feet or more. One of the many things I learned from Pat was to shorten my cast when I had trouble. Starting out with too long of a cast may bring out some bad habits such as not bringing the forward cast to a brisk stop. Like any skill, getting back to fundamentals will get you to a higher level of performance. Another basic technique is to keep you rod tip in the same plane. You will get a lesson on casting and then practice these fundamentals under the watchful eyes of the instructors. What a great way to learn. Put down your books on casting techniques and come to this clinic for the real thing. This is the best opportunity to learn from the masters and one of the advantages of belonging to Suncoast Fly Fishers. So pack up your favorite salt water rod and meet us. If you don't have a salt water rod come anyway, we will have a few club rods that you can use. No excuses. Come early and rig up because at 9:00 AM on Saturday November 19 the casting clinic starts. Drive to Ft. DeSoto, turn left at the flag pole and drive to the end. This is a great opportunity to cast to that fish you want to catch. This casting clinic is for those who are just learning to cast as well as those wishing to improve their casting skills. It is for everyone!

# **Membership Renewal**

### SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 19 - Ft DeSoto Casting Clinic (a.m.) Nov 19 - SFF Regular Outing (p.m.) Dec 2011 — No General Meeting Jan 19, 2012 Trash or Treasures Auction Mar 2-4, 2012 Tampa Tribune Expo

# Outing Reviews, Previews, Nov. Program, Casting Clinic 2 Membership renewal Form, Casting Clinic, Casting Tips 3 Yes, We Have No Bananas—Hofmeister 4 Editor's Page 5 Member Catches, Eastern Brook Trout—Kelley 6 & 7 Tying Bench - Skull & Bonz—Smitty 8 Photo Gallery—Oct. Tie A Thon 9

# Outings—Reviews & Previews by Alan Sewell

### November Outing Nov. 19, 2011 at Ft DeSoto

October Outing: The Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament was held on Oct. 20, 2011 at the Hillsboro River, one of Carl's favorite places to fish. This is an outing to remember Carl and the info that he taught us about fly fishing. This event is shared with the Tampa Fly Fishing Club and the Suncoast Fly Fishers. A yearly trophy is awarded to the angler with the most fish. We had two anglers present and the Tampa Club had four anglers. The trophy was won by the Tampa Club. Six anglers fishing was a very poor turnout for such a good friend and mentor.

**Nov. 4, 2011 FFWC Ruskin Redfish Hatchery:** This was a great day learning about the redfish hatchery. The FFWC does an outstanding job of raising redfish from roe to grown. This is a project that is putting redfish back into our waters and is studied by other States. Very scientific. We even were allowed to place imbedded tags into redfish. The best part of the day was feeding the LARGE breeder males in their own pond. They would fight to eat the big baits that we feed them.

**November Outing:** Casting Clinic and Fishing: 11/19/11

Pat Damico will be holding a fly casting clinic at Fort DeSoto on the East Beach tip at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.. Food and

drinks will be provided. The fishing outing starts after the clinic, and the first angler to register a minimum size of Trout, Redfish, or Snook will be the prizewinner.



### **Future Outing Preiews:**

December – Don Coleman Classic and chili cookout Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Ft DeSoto

January 2012 - Any suggestions, where would you like to go? See Alan or any board member and let us hear your thoughts.

### **Fishing Tournament Results 2011-2012**

BASS - David Mullens 14 inches SNOOK - open TROUT - Woody Miller 21½ inches REDFISH - Mark Hays 28 inches SUNFISH - Don Manning 10 inches OTHER - Don Manning 16 inch ladyfish (All fish must meet FWC regulations minimum size)

# **November 17th Program & Featured Fly Tyer**

Our guest speaker this month will be Capt. Joe LeClair and he will also be our featured fly tyer. Joe is a professional guide who fishes the waters of New England for striped bass, albacore etc. during the summer & fall months and then Florida for tarpon, snook, and redfish during the winter and spring. Joe will talk about his fishing experiences and techniques. Joe is also an excellent fly tyer and will demonstrate some of his favorite and most productive flies for us. Don't miss Capt. LeClair's program and fly tying demonstration. Check out his website at <a href="https://www.flyfishsalt.com">www.flyfishsalt.com</a> for some excellent pictures.

# Casting Clinic, Ft. DeSoto East Beach, Nov. 19, 2011 Time: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

We will have our Casting Clinic for members Saturday, Nov. 19th. All levels of skill are invited, that includes those who never held a rod to our intermediate to advanced casters who wish to hone their skills or wonder why they still get occasional "wind knots." Critiques of our casting clinic have always been great as evidenced by our high score in our recent club survey. This is a wonderful club benefit as well as a good time for all. Our goal is to create an atmosphere where you will feel comfortable and put you on the right track. Be sure to wear a hat and sunglasses. Richard's great coffee and donuts will keep us warm while we set up rods and prepare for a prompt start at 9:00. New members are especially encouraged to attend. SFF's regular monthly outing will follow after lunch, you can apply your new skills, and the information from Alan Sewell's recent presentation, to the bountiful waters of Ft De-Soto Park where wade fishing is very productive. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at our next meeting. If you miss the sheet, call me and I will reserve your spot, also, let me know if you need equipment.

As in the past, SFF Club dues as well as FFF dues must be current.

Pat Damico, MCI 727-504-8649

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# **SFF Membership Renewal Form**

To renew your membership for 2011-2012 please complete this form and bring it to the meeting or mail it (address on back page).										
Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership Application										
Name*	Date									
Address*										
		Zip*								
Telephone* ()										
E Mail										
*This information is shown on the Membership List which is distributed to members only and is not used for commercial purposes. If you do not desire this information disclosed to members, please so indicate. The monthly newsletter, "On the Fly," is only distributed electronically. You may also obtain a copy from our web site: <a href="www.suncoastflyfishers.com">www.suncoastflyfishers.com</a>										
Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) membership categories (select one):										
Regular Membership 1 year \$15 (September 2011-12)										
Family Membership 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) \$25										
Business Membership 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) \$100										

# Casting Tips by Capt. Pat Damico, MCI

Casting tip 23:

False casting, making a forward and back cast without delivering the fly to the target, is an excellent way to develop good casting skills. Using a bright line that can easily be seen, position your casting side foot rearward enough to allow you to observe your whole cast. A poor backcast is one of the faults most frequently observed. Using only the rod hand, start your false casting exercise with only 5 or 6 feet of line plus a 7 or 8 foot leader and concentrate on making narrow loops that are the same size on both forward and backcast. If you are getting nice consistent narrow loops, add a couple feet of line and continue the exercise. Start horizontally then cast more vertically. Add line in 2 foot increments. Small adjustments of the fundamentals we first discussed will give you consistent results and more confidence to carry more line. This is an excellent exercise to use each time you begin a practice session.

### **SFF Shirts and Hats**

All SFF members should be properly attired especially for Club outings. If you don't have any SFF clothing, we can help you with that. Club Treasurer Roger Blanton has a supply of club hats and Mark Craig has a few (very few) of the Club's new Tee shirt — all at a very friendly price. Please see Roger and Mark at the November 17th meeting to get yours.

# Yes, We Have No Bananas Today! By Ken Hofmeister





Ken Hofmeister presents Woody Miller with his much deserved "Top Banana" award while Alan Sewell applauds Woody's fishing prowess despite the unfortunate circumstances leading up to his unexpected change of luck. A close up of the much sought after Top Banana award is on the right. Hofmeister photos

"Bananas l	bring l	bad	luck	on i	fishing	boats."	True	False	Maybe
	$\mathcal{C}$				$\mathcal{C}$				<i></i>

We've all heard of guides searching coolers and tossing bananas overboard because of superstition. Myths abound concerning the bad fortune brought upon banana-toting anglers. Stories are told concerning the bad "Ju-Ju" that comes from fooling around with bananas on board.

SFF is dedicated to using and acting upon scientific data and not simply relying upon oral tradition of lying fishermen. So where could we test this superstition? Why not on one of our outings —North Shore Park to be exact?

Woody Miller, to his credit, applied all of Dave Dant's tips about reading charts, maps, tidal currents, and satellite views of the targeted fishing area. He also asked successful anglers like Ken Doty where to fish. Highly motivated, Woody launched his kayak in the dark and paddled to the spot marked X. He also utilized a "spotter" (Ken Doty didn't fish but did use his binoculars to monitor the outing). Yes, Woody caught lots of fish. Yes he caught a 22 ½ inch trout (Doty estimated 23—but what's a half inch in our club).

It seems that Hofmeister and Pitcher were not doing so well and that Ken did have bananas on board his 20 ft. Scout. Ever hospitable, Ken offered Woody a banana. Woody declined as he reminded Ken and Al that bananas were bad luck—very bad luck for fly fishers. Alas! After consuming the banana, Ken somehow let the peel fall unnoticed in the stern of Woody's kayak. The research project was on go.

Woody paddled about 30 yards toward the rest rooms before being swamped by a herd of manatees! The banana peel floated to the surface and Woody knew he was a part of the club's scientific project. Was the manatee swamping an anomaly? Soon we'd know. Woody bailed his craft and continued casting—to no avail. His "killer gurgler" fly had lost the motivation to catch fish. We'd say the "Fishing Force" was no longer with him.

We are all deeply indebted to Woody for bringing us an answer to the ageless question. Even though the study did not include a large sample, we would fearfully conclude that bananas are bad news for superstitious fly fishers. In appreciation for his contribution to this research, we are awarding Woody the TOP BANANA TROPHY. Way to go Woody!

# Editor's Page by Paul Sequira

Since many of us don't usually keep any of the fish we catch, we are sometimes unaware of the finer points of FFWC's regulations concerning fish size and limits. This is not a good thing! I was reminded of this when reading last Friday's St Pete times Gulf To Bay section that listed some current and possible changes to regulations. Regarding one of our favorite inshore fish, spotted seatrout it was pointed out that starting Nov.4<sup>th</sup>, if you fish in the southern part of the state, you will have to release all spotted seatrout from now until the end of the year. The season for these fish closed in the "south zone" which on the east coast is south of the Flagler-Volusia county line and here on the Gulf Coast, the boundary is south of a line running due west from the westernmost point of Fred Howard Park Causeway, which is about 1.17 miles south of the Pinellas-Pasco county line. If you fish northeast and northwest Florida waters, the season will remain open until February unless the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission adopts new rules on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> when it meets in Key Largo to get rid of the current rolling recreational closures. At that meeting there will be discussions regarding red-fish regulations too.

We all should always be aware of current state fishing regulations and the best way to do this is to check them out at the FFWC's website <a href="http://www.myfwc.com/">http://www.myfwc.com/</a>

A note from Ken Hofmeister includes a link to a website of interest. "This has all the fishing regulations on-line, along with other stuff of interest to our club. Florida Wildlife magazine has always been a great publication. Now it is free on-line." <a href="https://www.floridawildlifemagazine.com/">https://www.floridawildlifemagazine.com/</a> contents.cfm

Some new members joined SFF last month and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the club. Vic Morelli of Oldsmar, Ron Olson of St Petersburg and Mike Low also of St Petersburg are our newest members. Gentlemen, we hope you will all find your membership rewarding and enjoyable. Please take advantage of the benefits that membership in SFF offers. Many of them are listed on page 9 of this newsletter. I think the best part of being a member is the friendships you will make with the many wonderful people in our club.

We are approaching the end of another year and now would be a good time to remind everyone that the month of December is the only month when SFF takes a break from the monthly meetings. That's right, there is no monthly meeting in December. There will as usual, be a December newsletter. Your editor doesn't get a month off.

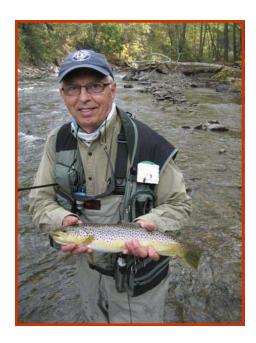
SFF prides itself in offering entertaining and fun programs. Coming up in January 2012, is one of the best and most popular programs of the year – our annual *Trash or Treasures Auction*. With our own Alan Sewell as auctioneer leading the fun. SFF members donate items to the club, (fishing or otherwise) that they no longer have use for or just to clean out the stash to make room for new stuff. The items are auctioned off and all proceeds go into SFF's general fund. We all have a really great time and your donations go to support some of the club's expenses such as the monthly rent for our fantastic meeting room, free soft drinks at the meetings, free lunches at our monthly outings or the free pizza nights with our Fly Tying meeting etc. So start lining up the stuff you no longer need or want and be prepared to buy some of someone else's stuff to help support your club. ..... *Paul* 

# **SFF Members Recent Catches**





Hugh Copeland caught this beautiful rainbow trout last month and emailed the following. "I caught this rainbow trout on this fly (picture above right). I thought the fly was a Clouser I had previously tied but remembered that it was one of a box of flies I purchased at this year's Pig Roast. We were in Wolf Laurel, NC. I was fishing in a pond that was drained last year to repair damage to it from flooding. The subdivision then restocked the pond with one pound rainbow trout. After the pond was repaired, the creek next to it rose again and we think this fish got into the pond at that time. My friend, who has a cottage up there, said it was the largest fish he had ever seen caught in the pond." Photos by Hugh Copeland





In an Oct. 11th note from Pat Damico, he tells us "This is what I did in PA yesterday. One of three in that same size range (rainbow above right) fishing a stream that runs into the Susquehanna River in Columbia County. Water levels are finally getting fishable. We had so much rain earlier. Wooly Bugger and streamer fishing proved productive sometimes with a sink tip line. Browns starting to move up stream to spawn. Trout have great color (above left)." Pat Damico photos

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# Eastern Brook Trout Study by Ron Kelley



Member Ron Kelley spends his spring and summer months in his native New Hampshire and volunteers with his Trout Unlimited Chapter on an Eastern Brook Trout study in conjunction with the New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept. Ron sent this note along with these pictures. "I am sending you several e-mails with photos of brook trout that we were able to catch for the Eastern Brook Trout Study or trout that we were able to net this fall as part of the F&G Depts. annual quality check of different trout waters. I have a lot more info regarding the Eastern Brook Trout Study if you have any interest. Several states are participating in this project. In the case of N.H. it is an effort between the N.H.F&G Dept., Dartmouth College, and Trout Unlimited. Dartmouth and TU were able to provide the funding for the radio transmitters, which allowed the project to happen. This project has been on going for the last 4 or 5 years." Ron Kelley photos

# Tying Bench — Skull and Bonz by Layne Smith

Smitty developed this fly using the "Fish Skulls" fly head to tempt bonefish, hence the name Skull and Bonz, this same fly is also an excellent redfish pattern.

### **Materials:**

• Hook: Gamakatsu B10S size 6.

• Thread: Pink Flat-waxed Nylon

• Tail: Rose DNA Frosty Fish Fiber

• Flash: Pink Crystal Flash

• Body: Creamy Pink Cross-cut Rabbit Flesh Strips

• Collar: Ice Dub UV Pink Shrimp

• Head: Fish Skulls Pinky Purple Pearl small

# **Tying Instructions:**

- 1. Tie in sparse hank (doubled V-style) of Rose Fish Fiber 2 ½ times shank length.
- 2. Tie in 2 strands Pink Crystal Flash in the same manner.
- 3. Tie in Cross-cut Rabbit and palmer forward leaving room for collar.
- 4. Tie in collar of UV Ice Dub and whip finish.
- 5. Apply a dab of Locktite Gel (or Zap-a-Gap Gel) CA glue on front of collar then slide Fish Skull over eye and press into place.
- 6. Reattach thread and tie a thread dam in front of Skull to hold in place. Apply coat of favorite head cement.

All flies tied by Smitty - Photos by Paul Sequira





# 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 or 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 & Roger Blanton
- Newsletter Paul Sequira
- 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

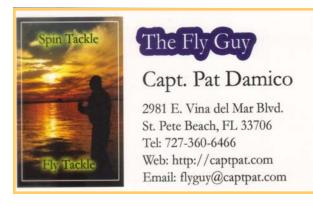




# **Suncoast Fly Fishers Advertisers**

















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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 loose their SFF membership. See Tom Gadacz for renewal forms.

### LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Nick Angelo, Tampa Bay 813-230-8473

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

Capt. Frank Bourgeois, Offshore Hernando County 352-666-6234

Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, Tampa Bay 813-361-8801

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

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

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

Steve Gibson, Sarasota Bay 941-284-3406

Capt. Rick Grassett, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, 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 bays 941-723-2655

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

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

Capt. Steve Soults, 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 Tom Gadacz at the meeting or call him at 727-360-8030.

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.

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# SFF Photo Gallery Oct. 20th Tie-A-Thon













Top row: Ken Hofmeister and grandson Ryan tied some Hofmeister specials, a sample is in the photo to the right.

Middle left: Master Fly Tyer Smitty wowed 'em as did Tom Jones—photo right. Bottom row: One of SFF's newer members Tony Fernstrom, displayed his exceptional fly tying talents with some fresh water trout flies. A box of Tony's flies in photo right. Hofmeister photos.

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 11

### **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

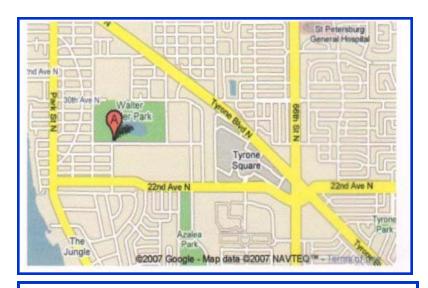
Paul Sequira - Alan Sewell

"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



http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com/



**Next Club Meeting: November 17, 2011** 

**Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Fly Tying** 

7:00-8:30 **Meeting & Program** 

**Location: Walter Fuller Park** 

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

Program -

Featured Fly Tyer— Capt. Joe LeClair

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821