

Suncoast Fly Fishers



On The Fly

The Prez Sez *by Tom Gadacz*



How are SFF like the Tampa Bay Rays?

Three wins in a row! After the Rays had an amazing sweep of the New York Yankees, the Suncoast Fly Fishers also had three great wins.

Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction. This year we had a change in venue at the City of Treasure Island Auditorium. The surroundings were very pleasant and the hog roast was great. Tom Hummel was the recipient of the Vision/Values Award. We had some terrific items for the auction and Karen Warfel won the grand raffle prize of a TFO combo of rod and reel and a Wulff Bermuda line. There were many auction bargains in guided trips and fly fishing equipment and collectibles. The fly tiers contributed many good looking flies and thanks to Myron for organizing contributions from over 25 members. The buckets were also loaded with everything from fishing to survival items. Leroy's BBQ was tasty and Captain Bob was in great form. An amazing part of the event was the desserts that many of you brought to the table. We could not have planned any better to have such a sweet ending to this event. Thanks to all of you for making this a special part of our hog roast. Special thanks to Roger Blanton, Kirk Burton, Joe Dail, Pat Damico, Myron Hansen, Marianne and Mark Hays, Ken Hofmeister, Tom Gadacz, Rick Kelly, Richard Oldenski, Al Pitcher, Alan Sewell, and Tom Trukenbrod. These people were the bullpen and sluggers who made sure it happened and all of you were the team who made it a success.

Casting Clinic. Thanks to Pat Damico along with Ken Doty, Ken Hofmeister and Alan Sewell we had a great day of fly casting instruction. It was so good to see our new members learning the basics of fly casting. The wind did provide a challenge to all of us but this did not discourage anyone. So how do you become an accomplished fly caster? As the New York taxi driver replied to the musician who asked him how to get to Carnegie Hall – practice, practice, practice. Richard Oldenski provided a warm lunch for all who attended. Maximo Park was a good place and provided a good shoreline and a semi-protected field to practice casting.

FFF Certified Master Fly Casting Instructor. Congratulations to Dayle Mazzarella for passing the rigorous test to become a FFF Certified Master Fly Casting Instructor. This is not only a great credit to Dayle and his wife Barbara (who also helped coach) but to SFF in having another member who gained recognition for a great achievement. Way to go Dayle! **Tom**

See Dayle & Barbara's recollections of how Dayle prepared on page 5PS

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 21 - SFF Urban outing, No. Shore Park
- April 27- 29 - Everglades Trip Special Event
- Sept 22- 23 - FL Sportsman Show, FL State Fairgrounds
- Nov 10 - Marine Quest

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Outings—Reviews & Previews by Alan Sewell



April Outing: April 21, 2012 Urban Outing

March Outing: Our club held their March outing fishing the Clam Bar on the Skyway approach. That Saturday was a great spring fishing day. Low winds, nice temperatures, and plenty of fish. The most trout totals were caught by Ken Doty. He stayed in one spot and caught almost 40 fish. The largest measuring 17 inches. Lunch was served at Maximo Park. Hot grilled frankfurters and sides prepared by Richard Oldenski. Another great FFF day. (Fun, Food, Fish)

April Outing: This outing is our "Urban Outing". We will be fishing downtown St. Petersburg. Area to fish is between Coffee Pot Bayou and Demons Landing. Both of these areas have boat ramps. Kayak or canoes can be launch off of the sea wall along the waterfront, or you can wade-fish the flats. Lunch will be at served at 11:00AM at Flora Wylie Park on North Shore Drive and 17th Ave NE.

The Suncoast Fly Fishers would like to thank Richard Oldenski and Mark Hays for their efforts in having our

lunches ready this past year. The food was always great. Some of it was killed in the woods, or picked up on the way to the grill.

Future Outing Previews:

April 27 - 29, 2012. Everglades trip. Fishing the canals. Call La Quinta Inn Sunrise, 954-846-1200 #6, Asked for Gladys and say you are with the SFF.

May 19, 2012: Emerson Point

June 16, 2012: Night time dock fishing.

Fishing Tournament 2012 - 2013

Bass

Snook

Trout - Ken Doty -17 inches

Redfish

Sunfish

Other fish

All fish must meet minimum size by FWC rules. Any fish may be entered for each category when we are having an outing.

April 19th Meeting and Program

SFF member Robert Fischer will spill some of his secrets on how to catch the variety of fish in the Tampa Bay area. Robert is an accomplished fly fisher with many years experience and one of the best fishermen in the area. Robert, also an excellent fly tyer, will demonstrate some of his favorite flies.

Casting Tips by Capt. Pat Damico, MCI

Casting tip 28: How important is it to watch my backcast?

On two recent charters, where tailing redfish were our quarry, both clients had considerable difficulty achieving the needed accuracy to properly place the small crab pattern they were using. They both turned to watch every backcast. Once you take your eye off the target, accuracy is impossible. The time to watch your backcast, other than avoiding an obstacle behind you, is when you are practicing casting, not fishing. "Perfect practice," will give you the confidence needed to improve fishing results. This should be on a lawn with a practice line that is very visible and "fly." If during practice you have consistent good loops, your confidence in a fishing situation will be established. A good forward cast cannot be made unless a good backcast precedes it.

Casting tip 29:

Our last tip had to do with the importance of a good backcast in order to make a very good forward cast. The "180 Degree Rule" is one of the keys. This means that the setup before making a forward cast should have the line in your backcast directly opposite or 180 degrees from your intended target. Concentrate on this principle with normal casting and especially roll casting setups. Once your proficiency increases, then alter the angle, or violate the rule a little to see the difference.

Editor's note: In past issues, I have been running Pat's tips one month behind only because I started publishing them one month after Pat started them. I decided it was time to catch-up and these two tips just seemed like the ones to do it with.PS

Fly Fishing Transition From Fresh To Saltwater by Pat Damico



How does one become a saltwater fly fisher? Usually, most are freshwater converts. But these days there are many that have actually started in saltwater. Northern visitors that come to Florida to enjoy our weather can be frequently seen in our airports carrying rod cases.

All fly rod companies make 2, 3, 4 and even 5 and 6 piece outfits that easily conform to on-board baggage requirements. However, I have one word of caution: Checking fly rods in with luggage could be a disaster. Your "hard" case can end up like a pretzel!

Most of my northern clients have spent their fly fishing past with nothing heavier than a 5 wt. rod fishing freshwater trout streams. The most frequently asked question I'm asked is, "How far must I cast to fish saltwater?" Saturday morning TV fishing programs have intimidated them because of the frequent emphasis on distance.

If their best previous cast has been 30 feet, they are not going to cast 60 feet with a 10 wt. rod no matter how well balanced the outfit is.

When fishing for freshwater trout on a stream, you have current, structure, feeding stations, wind, water clarity, air and water temperature variations, casting obstacles, drag, and the sun causing shadows, but increasing visibility. Depending on the species, you can have most or all of the same in the salt.

Variations in current that create drag are the most significant problems when trying to tempt a freshwater trout to take your tiny dry fly. Tide can be substituted for current, a dock, piling, or oyster bar would be structure.

On small freshwater streams casting obstacles can be a real problem, but I fished small creeks entering Tampa Bay either wading or in my canoe that were just as challenging. Overhanging mangroves, boats on lifts, docks, and bridges are certainly obstacles to casting.

I've caught a lot of saltwater species on small flies and many freshwater fish on bigger offerings. Are there more similarities than you thought? When the wind is flat, I've used 6 wt. rods for bonefish and reds in shallow water to allow a stealthy presentation. Other circumstances may require a 10 wt.

Most saltwater species roam looking for forage. If you've ever fished a big brown trout river at night you know that they do the same. During the day, these lunkers are under a bank or behind a rock in a deep hole and not actively feeding.

Watch snook under a lighted dock face into the tide waiting for supper. As the tide changes they will reverse position. I fish a lot at night, and the position of a light on a dock will have fish under the dock with an incoming tide and out in open water away from the dock on the outgoing tide. Is this the reason some docks produce better on certain tides, or is the accessibility to the fish the problem?

Trout will generally hold in a "feeding lane" and rise as the fly drifts into their vision. I've fished over stubborn brown trout for hours as I tried to imitate the specific mayfly they were engulfing and the horizontal position of the fish never changed. Herein may lie one of the major differences for the aspiring saltwater fly fisher.

Time to cast is a bigger factor in most saltwater applications. Most notable is when a guide is poling you across a shallow flat and seeing a redfish, he calls out the position. Provided you see the fish, and know his direction, you have a set of unique circumstances to overcome. Get the fly in his zone of vision quickly, quietly, naturally and accurately at his depth, with a minimum of false casting...preferably using only one, from a moving boat, at a moving fish, in the wind, without hooking the guide. This will be the defining moment and where failure is most frequently assured.

After attempting this drill a number of times, frustration will set in and trying harder will only make matters worse. The guide isn't doing too well either! He has worked very hard to position you properly only to have his efforts wasted.

.....continued on page 4

Fly Fishing Transition *by Pat Damico*continued

If I'm taking someone out for the first time, we meet at least an hour before I expect the fish to be active. We then go to a quiet area and I show them how to cast, retrieve, clear line, strip strike and get line on the reel with the outfit they will be using.

I realize books have been written on each of these topics. However, in a short period of time an experienced fly fisher will get it together enough to be able to up the odds for success considerably. On my charters, we usually use my equipment because it is better balanced and will work for the specific task. I will hand the rod to my client and ask them to show me how well they can cast.

With this initial evaluation, I've seen everything from a cast of 10 feet with a loop the size of the moon to someone who was very proficient. In either case, these clients had told me during our pre trip phone conversations stories about catching salmon in Alaska, giant rainbows in Colorado, and sailfish in Mexico -- on flies, naturally. The ten foot caster could be much more descriptive and vocal. Now he is in trouble! And yes, I've had trips where I had to make every cast for clients, they did the retrieve, and we caught fish! Who thinks guiding is easy?

Frequently, a good portion of our trip has been devoted to casting instructions. Some inexperienced anglers have actually doubled the distance from their first attempt. Certainly, this could very well have been done in a back yard on the grass, or in a snow covered parking lot up north. When you do practice, use the heaviest outfit you have. Get some good instruction. Most good fly shops, even 200 miles from saltwater have heavier outfits than you can use. Become familiar with 8 and 9 wt. rods and you will have an enjoyable trip.

Saltwater fly fishing is a blast! This article is really intended to help you put your expectations in perspective and encourage you to join the ranks of many who are discovering this new dimension to our sport. Information is available by contacting me at:

pat4jaws@hotmail.com

or 727-360-6466.

[Click here for my web site](#)

Capt. Pat Damico, MCI

St. Pete Beach, FL

March 31, 2012 Casting Clinic *By Pat Damico MCI*

Twenty eight club members braved some very windy conditions to attend our casting clinic. It was difficult getting them to leave the comfort of Richard's great coffee and donuts, but they all lined up on the beach and for two and a half hours went through a variety of exercises to improve their ability to catch more fish with a fly rod. It was especially rewarding to see the large number of new members, some with absolutely no previous fly fishing experience. We had all experience levels represented providing a challenge to our staff of very versatile instructors. Conditions were ideal to learn a variety of ways to deal with wind conditions coming from every possible direction. Roll casts, pickup and lay down casts, change of direction casts, shooting line, accuracy, and line control were some of the areas covered. Everyone went home with a card addressing their personal needs to keep them on a continual path so that their casting will continue to improve. Our casting instructors Alan Sewell, Ken Hofmeister, and Ken Doty received many complements about their patience and versatility. Richard Oldenski prepared an outstanding lunch for us as we revisited what we learned during the morning. A special thank you to all who helped with another successful event!

Preparing for the FFF Master Casting Instructor Certification By Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella

Dayle: I passed the FFF Casting Instructor exam in late August, 2011. It was pretty neat to have Suncoast Fly Fishers members Kirk Burton, Tom Gadacz, and Pat Damico at the West Yellowstone FFF Conclave, sharing with me that accomplishment.

I thought “that wasn’t too bad, maybe I’ll just go and get the MCI certificate while I’m at it.” Little did I know ...

I printed a copy of the MCI requirements and Study Guide from the FFF website, and at first glance it looked pretty reasonable. I’m a retired teacher and have worked as a guide in Wyoming since 1987, so the list of 19 casting and teaching tasks looked difficult but manageable and the three pages of study guide questions seemed okay, even if I was completely unfamiliar with some of them.

Starting September 5th, I started casting virtually every day for one to three hours with very few days off. Over the course of the next six months, I worked with MCIs Lee Davison, Joe Libeu, Dusty Sprague, Gordy Hill, Brad Lowman, and John Van Derhoof. Their help in my preparation was invaluable and aided my ability to progress so quickly. I studied dozens of books, hundreds of magazine articles and researched online information; from knots to how rods and lines are built, to the basic physics of casting principles, and everything in between. If it had to do with casting, teaching casting, or fishing, I tried to learn about it.

I took four six-hour pretests, each one of which included 2 hours of explaining and demonstrating the 19 casting tasks, and then 4 more hours of oral questions.

From September 5, 2011 to March 17th of this year, I spent between three to six hours each day preparing for the exam. Most people take years to pass the test, but I was lucky in many respects. I have a very long and varied fishing, guiding, teaching and coaching background. I am retired, so had the luxury of few demands on my time and I was able to devote all those hours to practicing and studying. And absolutely, most importantly, my wife, Barbara, was unbelievably supportive. I wish I had a nickel for every hour she watched me cast, pointing out flaws and making suggestions. I wish I had a nickel for every flash card on which she quizzed me.

I can’t believe how much I have learned and how much the experience has made me a better casting instructor and fisherman - a very worthwhile journey for anyone inclined to take the challenge - But take a few years! :)

Barbara: I had no idea where the MCI quest would lead us, but at every turn it has been filled with richness. At the beginning, I thought I was tagging along to ‘take notes’ for Dayle to review after the lessons. But each of Dayle’s mentors worked with me and taught me what good casts (all 19) looked like and how to correct the many faults that can occur due to inappropriate application of power, creeping, poor timing, rotation, etc.

It would be a lie to say those many hours watching Dayle cast were all great; I still feel the freezing October temperatures as Dayle practiced casting in Wyoming, sometimes twice a day. Truthfully, many of our discussions didn’t start with “Sweetie, I think you’re creeping a little”, or if they did, they didn’t end that way. We reviewed the questions so much that even I knew the answers without looking. It was intense, hour after hour. (I wish he would have given me a nickel for each of those hours!) We shared lots of laughs and rolled our eyes each time someone saw us practicing on the grass and said, “Hey, there aren’t any fish out there!”. But it was time well spent as Dayle’s casting got better and better - it was a journey we made together. The best part has been that we have met so many wonderful people and made friends that we hold dear. Though I don’t cast any better after all of this, I know a lot of “stuff”, and I’m grateful for the experience.



Dayle Mazzarella in his Wyoming office. Mazzarella photo

Chris Anderson — Maps Help You Catch More Fish *by Bill AuCoin*

Where do you want to fish today? Cartographer Chris Anderson has some good ideas.

He says you can fly over your favorite fishing areas ... on the Internet. Some websites will let you fly here, there and everywhere over the water. You can see grass, sand, structure, depths, and where game fish should be.

See a possibility? Zoom in and check it out in detail. Tomorrow, armed with your new knowledge, drop that fly you just tied into the path of an over-the-slot redfish.

Chris spoke to Suncoast Fly Fishers at the March meeting. A graphic designer, cartographer, and geographic information systems analyst with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in St. Petersburg, he is one of the major players responsible for Florida's successful Boating and Angling Guides.

You've seen the printed guides. The price is right. They're funded by Sport Fish Restoration, Wallop-Breaux, fishing license tags. You probably picked up a freebie at the Florida Sportsman Show or Marine Quest. The Boating and Angling Guide to Tampa Bay is only one of more than 2.5 million guides produced and updated since 1991. Chris has worked on them since 1994.

The printed guides are nice. They're water proof. They're tear-proof. They fit in your tackle box. Valuable information: clean and intuitive navigation charts, satellite images of popular fishing areas, catch and release tips, safe boating tips, insights into fishy habitats. And much more like Coast Guard and other search and rescue phone and VHF call channels. Yes, you should have it in your tackle box.

If you're going to fish a new area in Florida and you don't have the applicable guide, you're in luck. Anderson and his team are putting them all on the Internet.

But there is this one thing that paper charts do not do. They don't zoom in for a close up look at something. For that you have to go online.

Here are some of the websites Chris mentioned and why you should visit them.

http://ocean.floridamarine.org/Boating_Guides/index.html

This site contains all the Guides that are available on the Web: printed and interactive. Currently, there are three fully interactive Web sites (Tampa Bay, Charlotte Harbor, and the Florida Keys) and five web-enabled printed Guides. The interactive sites contain all the information shown on the printed Guides, as well as more detailed information about marine facilities (boat ramps and fishing piers), detailed maps, interactive maps and a more detailed resource directory with Web links and phone numbers. The web-enabled printed Guides provide an interactive map and a more detailed resource directory.

For tides, currents, water levels:

<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports/index.shtml?port=tb> (for Tampa Bay only)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]--><http://tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov/geographic.html> (for all of Florida)

For web addresses for nautical charts that can be printed on a desktop printer:

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html>

For Raster Nautical Charts (scanned charts. You will need a free viewer.)

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/Raster/index.htm>

For Electronic Nautical Charts (You will need a free viewer.)

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/enc/index.htm>

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Chris Anderson — Maps Help You Catch More Fish ...continued

Zoom in

Then Chris pointed Suncoast Fly Fishers toward the gold mine link below. This is where you search for your body of water, then zoom in on the hybrid earth/chart and zoom in some more – It moves amazingly fast! -- until you see where grass meets sand meets drop-off. And, hey-hey, there's little glare-off-the-water that you often get with other satellite earth views. You'll see where tarpon will migrate to and from bridges. You'll see where you should drop anchor to be in the best position for sight casting to serious fish. Go there. Be there.

<http://earthnc.com/online-nautical-charts>

Chris welcomes feedback. Let him know that you visited these sites and what he and his colleagues can do to make them even more fly-fisher friendly. Email him at Boating_Guides@MyFWC.com

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A Casting Clinic testimonial – by Tom Jones

The first few times I attended Captain Pat Damico's casting clinic, I thought I had learned some good tips and was satisfied. But I was still having problems with tennis elbow (actually, fly fishing elbow). I used to think that fly fishing was just naturally bad for my chronic tendonitis — until I started mentioning it during the casting clinics. . .

Four clinics ago, Pat showed me how to use my whole body to cast, saving the stress on my elbows. . .

Three clinics ago, I learned how to double haul my cast to give me more power without having to abuse my elbows, and it's virtually effortless — a matter of form, not strength. . .

Two clinics ago I learned the most valuable lesson of all — get rid of that death grip on the fly rod and slow down the cast and let the rod do the work. Also, after umpteen reminders by Pat, I finally began practicing casting when I'm not fishing. This has helped me cast efficiently without having to concentrate on technique, so that I can focus on where I'm casting. . .

This last clinic, I learned how to minimize tailing loops and the resulting knots in my leader.

Before I joined Suncoast Fly Fishers, I thought I knew how to cast! Captain Pat's careful instruction has not only renovated my tennis elbow but has renewed and enhanced the pleasure of fly fishing. I'm not claiming to have mastered all these things, but the improvement is remarkable! Not only that — now, spin casting aggravates my tendonitis more than fly casting! Now, instead of hunting for fish with my spinning rod to reserve enough strength to drag out my fly rod after I've located them, I start with the fly rod. What a difference!!

Suncoast Fly Fishers Welcome New members

The Suncoast Fly Fishers welcome new members Michael Boses of Seminole and Simon Boses also of Seminole. Gentlemen we hope you will find your membership with SFF rewarding and enjoyable. Our club offers many activities and benefits as described on page 12 of this newsletter.

An April Fishing Report by Tom Jones



Editor's note: In an email from Tom Jones he tells us how he and Norm Sande had a great couple of hours fishing and brought home a nice dinner one evening a couple of weeks ago. And they beat the rain too! I'm glad to see that Tom has found a better use for the ladyfish. (heh) Tom at top and Norm above with his frozen trout. Tom Jones photos.

If this fish looks cold and stiff, it's because we dragged it out of the ice for the photo.

Norm Sande and I hit the water early to scout out some potential dock lights before it got completely dark. We had precious little time to fish as we both vowed to quit fishing at 10 pm so that we wouldn't have to spend the next day recuperating. It wasn't fully dark when we approached the first underwater light. I thought it was a bit early but, "Why not?", says Norm, "If there's nothing there, we can always try it again on the way back." Second cast with a tiny green back pattern netted a 19 1/4" trout! Next light, same fly, another 19" trout! It was fly fishing heaven, catching all the dinner we could eat in the first half hour of fishing. We actually quit at 10:05 pm and kept 4 trout and a bunch of lady fish (for my stone crab trap).

Good thing we disciplined ourselves to quit on time (First time ever, for me). Just as we got back to the boat launch, that surprise Thursday night storm hit. We got soaked but were out of danger.Tom

Tying Bench — Shrimpf Fly Smitty's Variation by Layne Smith

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407, S71S, C70S or equivalent stainless saltwater hook, size 2 - 8.
- Thread: Flat waxed nylon (choice of colors).
- Maxilla: Pink, Pearl or UV Krystal Flash.
- Back & hackle: Nylon paint brush bristles approximately 2½ to 4 inches long (size to hook).
- Body: Wide pearlescent Flashabou.
- Eyes: Silver bead chain. For less weight I use pearl craft beads in the small sizes.
- Cement: Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails and some form of CA cement like Locktite, Fletchtite or Zap-a-Gap.



Shrimpf Fly tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith
Sequira photo

Tying Steps:

1. Lay down a thread base. Tie a small cluster of crystal flash fibers to the hook securing the fibers slightly past the beginning of the hook bend (12 to 24 strands depending on hook size and how bulky you want the fly to be). Trim the Krystal Flash to extend 1/3 to 1/2 the hook shank length past the bend of the hook. Advance thread to 1/4 inch back from hook eye. Lay down a bead of your favorite CA cement to cover thread wraps.
2. Select a small cluster of paint brush bristles (25 to 40 depending on hook size and desired bulk). These bristles should be approximately 2½ times your hook shank length. Tie the bristles to the hook, butt ends first, securing it in place about 1/4 inch behind hook eye then back to hook bend with fairly tight wraps (nylon is slippery).
3. Tie in a strand of wide, flat pearlescent tinsel, securing it to the same place on the hook bend.
4. Tie in the bead chain eyes on top of the tinsel using figure-8 wraps to secure them to the hook. Advance thread to front of bristle butt ends.
5. Pull the bristles over the top of the hook, between the bead chain eyes and secure it tightly in front of bristle butt ends. Continue wrapping to hook eye allowing bristles to encircle hook shank. "Important": Return thread to butt ends. It will make it easier to tie down bristles without sliding off end of "slick" bristles.
6. Start wrapping the tinsel. Your first wrap should pass between the eyes then under the hook and eyes covering the thread used to secure the eyes. Continue for a couple of figure eight wraps around the eyes then wrap a smooth tinsel body all the way to the thread wraps at the eye of the hook. When you have the body finished, tie the tinsel off and trim.
7. Pull the bristles back toward the tail (it should extend half the distance from the hook bend to the tail).
8. Flare the bristles into an evenly shaped circle around hook shank (adjust bristles if needed with fingers to form the circle).
9. I use a wide mouthed half hitch tool like a hair packer to fold bristles back toward hook bend and to hold the bristles in place while you secure it to the hook building an even head as you tie it down. If done properly the butt ends will help to flare bristles out like "a palmered hackle".
10. Whip finish and cement the body and head. Your finished fly will swim with the hook point up.

Tying Bench — Baboon Crab Fly By Layne “Smitty” Smith

The Baboon developed by Gregg Bowdish is a hybrid crab/shrimp fly designed for fishing the clear water red-fish flats of Matlacha Pass and Pine Island Sound. It's sparse, synthetic body coupled with small dumbbell eyes allows it to sink quickly, yet be much easier to cast than traditional weighted crab patterns. With the Polar Fibre tail causing it to sink at the proper, crab-like angle and the wiggly rubber legs to get the fish's attention; it is no wonder why redfish go out of their way to gobble them up.

As tied in the instructions below, the Baboon is an extremely effective attractor pattern for redfish. In many circumstances, however, I find it more effective to switch to a dark brown or tan version of the baboon using Aunt Lydia's Rug Yarn in place of the Mylar tubing. Like any fly pattern, the baboon can be tied in any color variation to match any local flats fodder and I encourage you to try different colors to suit different situations.



“Fire Tiger” Baboon tied by Smitty
Sequeira photo

Materials needed for "Fire-tiger" Baboon:

- Hook: Size 4 Mustad Signature Big Game Light hook
- Thread: Black flat waxed nylon thread
- Tail: Hot Orange Polar Fibre
- Antenna: Black Krystal Flash
- Eyes: Black plastic bead eyes
- Legs: Barred Olive rubber legs
- Body: Large Copper Mylar Tubing
- Weight: Small lead dumbbell eyes
- Weedguard: 20 or 30# mono.
- Cement: Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails or your favorite head cement.

Tying Sequence

1. Wrap the entire hook shank and half way into the bend with black flat waxed nylon thread.
2. On the outside bend of the hook, tie in six strands of black Kystal Flash. (Two should be about 3' long and the remaining four should be about 2" long)
3. Cut a clump of Hot Orange Polar Fibre from the "skin", comb out under-fur, line up tips and tie on to outside bend of hook directly on top of Crystal Flash.
4. On the INSIDE bend of the hook, tie in black plastic bead eyes figure-eight style directly across from the hook barb. The eyes I use come from a black bead necklace, but can be substituted with large black mono eyes.

Tying Bench — Baboon Crab Flycontinued

5. Next, on the shank of the hook, just before the bend, tie in four 1" long, barred-olive rubber legs. If you have a rotary vise, turn the fly over for the next step.
6. Leaving some space, figure eight a 1 inch section of large copper mylar tubing to the **INSIDE** of the hook shank. (You can substitute Aunt Lydia's Rug Yarn for more subdued color variations.)
7. Leaving a gap, tie in another 1 inch section of large copper mylar tubing. Turn the fly over for the next step.
8. Tie the lead eyes to the **TOP** of the hook shank directly behind the eye of the hook. Rotate the fly once again.
9. For a weed guard, bend a piece of 20 or 30# mono into the shape of a "V" and tie in between the dumbbell eyes and the closest section of Mylar tubing. Whip finish, trim the weed guard, pick apart the Mylar tubing and flatten like two frayed wings.



Greg Bowdish's original Baboon Fly tied by Smitty
Sequeira photo

- Coat all visible thread wraps and the frayed tubing with head cement. Allow to dry and give it a second coat.
10. Trim the body to give it a crab shape and throw at your nearest redfish! The original "Baboon Fly" was tied to imitate a blue crab. The colors used blues, whites, and oranges; hence the name "Baboon".

Here are the materials for the original "Baboon"...

Materials needed for "Original" Baboon:

- Hook: Size 4 Mustad Signature Big Game Light hook
- Thread: Florescent Blue flat waxed nylon thread
- Tail: Hot Orange Arctic Fox (or substitute same color Polar Fibre)
- Antenna: Pearl Krystal Flash
- Eyes: Black plastic bead eyes
- Legs: Pearl with Hot Orange Fire-Tip legs
- Body: White Aunt Lydia's Rug Yarn or any Anton fibers
- Weight: Small lead dumbbell eyes
- Weedguard: 20 or 30# mono.
- Cement: Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails or your favorite head cement.

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 & Roger Blanton
- 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



Guy Tillotson
President

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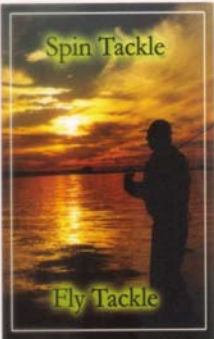
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SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

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. 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. Craig Crumbliss, Central Fl fresh water 863-232-9719
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 Grasset, 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 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 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.

SFF Photo Gallery— Random Pictures



Member Dave Putnam shows us a nice spotted seatrout he caught while kayak fishing near Venetian Isles flats earlier this month.

Hofmeister photo



Don Manning's tying demo at the Tampa Tribune Expo last month so interested young Ida that she asked Don if she could try it. She took to it immediately and Don said she did an excellent job. Perhaps we have another budding fly tyer and fly fisher on the way.

Her dad took the photo and sent it to Don.

SFF Photo Gallery - Hog Roast 2012



Top to bottom, left to right: the line of trophies for the 2011- 2012 contest year, Tom Hummel receives the “Living The SFF Values” award from Pres. Tom Gadacz, Alan Sewel hands out the fishing contest awards to: Ken Hofmeister biggest “other” fish, Mark Hays largest redfish and Tom Hummel for the biggest large mouth bass. Karen Warfel was the lucky raffle winner of the TFO Lefty Kreh model TiCR fly rod, TFO BVK reel complete with line and backing. presented by Tom Gadacz. Sequira photos

SFF Photo Gallery - Hog Roast 2012



Too many to identify, you'll recognize the members and guests. It was a great Hog Roast with a terrific crowd, excellent food and plenty of it, lots of great prizes and auction items. All photos by Bob McIntyre



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

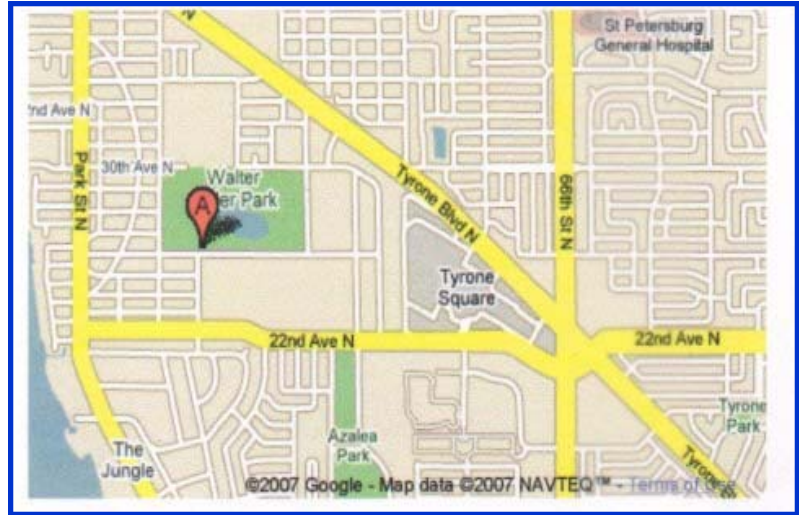
Dan Bumgarner - Kirk Burton

Hugh Copeland - Mark Craig -

Pat Damico - Myron Hanson - 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 19, 2012

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM Fly Tying Demo & Fly Casting

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Walter Fuller Park

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

Program - Robert Fischer-fishing local waters

Featured Fly Tyer: Robert Fischer

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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