Volume 22, Issue 1 January 2012



The Prez Sez by Tom Gadacz

Don Coleman Classic

We had great time at the Don Coleman Classic and many members joined us from the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers. I wish to apologize for my oversight in not mentioning and giving tribute to Don Coleman. Don contributed much to fly fishing in this area and authored "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod." That we did and had a great event! Read our comments about Don Coleman in this issue. I wish to thank Paul Seguira for his contributions and allowing me to use his article from the April, 2006 issue of "On the Fly."

Thanks to Alan Sewell who made his two kinds of chili (red and white bean). Both were delicious. Robert Fischer made some outrageous jambalaya as well. Also thanks to those who brought side dishes and snacks. Annie Hays organized the Texas Chili Cook Off skit which was hilarious.

We had great weather and good fishing. If you didn't attend, please mark your 2012 calendar for the Don Coleman Classic.

Trash and Treasures

This month's meeting will feature our auction for items donated by members. Bring those items in your fly fishing closet you wish to pass on to another member. Our skilled fly tiers can provide some great treasures of their favorite flies. Last year I bought six of Paul Sequira's flies. Five remain in mint condition and the other one has caught many trout. A new member may put that extra 8 wt. rod or reel and line to good use. What about your extra fly tying material? If you received any "replacement" fly fishing gear as a holiday present, bring your "old" tried but functional gear. Alan Sewell is our auctioneer so be prepared for a memorable event.

Elections in March

This March we will have elections for 2 officer positions (president and vice president) and 4 board positions. The 2 officer positions are eligible for another two year term. Two of the board members are agreeable to continue for another two years and two members wish to be replaced. The board has selected three members for the Nominating Committee: Joe Dail, Mark Hays, and Richard Oldenski. They will present a slate of nominees at the February meeting and election will occur at the March meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer or on the board, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members. Tom

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 19, 2012 Trash or Treasures Auction Mar 2-4, 2012 Tampa Tribune Expo March - Hog Roast - date to be determined April 27-29 - Everglades Trip Special Event

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Outings—Reviews & Previews by Alan Sewell

January Outing: Jan. 21,2012 at Pinellas Point

December Outing: This outing was our remembrance of Don Coleman, one of our deceased members that was a great fly fisher and teacher. We also had our annual Chile Cooking lunch at Fort DeSoto. This was again a great time to meet friends and share the day with our members and lots of fly fishers from the other Clubs in our area. All of the Fly Fishing Clubs attended and had a really good day. There was a massive amount of food that was eaten, the day was perfect for fishing and a lot of fish were caught.

January Outing: Jan. 21, 2012

We will have our January outing fishing the flats off of Pinellas Point. Waters to fish will cover from Downtown Pier to Misner Bridge. You can wade fish, kayak, or boat this area. Prize will be for the longest Ladyfish. Lunch will be at Bay Vista Park at 12:00pm. You can launch a boat at Demons Landing or Bay Vista Park. Good kayak launch at Bay Vista.

Future Outing Preiews:

February 18th, 2012: Fishing lakes in Lakeland area

March 17, 2012: local fishing

April 21,2012 local fishing

April 27-29,2012: Special Event - Everglades Fishing

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Bass - David Mullens 14 inches

Snook- Open

Trout - Rick Warfel 25 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)

NOTICE — January Meeting and Program

SFF Financial Audit

In 2009, SFF conducted an audit on its finances. This is an important function of any organization and provides assurance to the members that the funds of the organization are managed for the benefit of all members. The audit in 2009 showed that the financial status of the organization was stable and standard accounting procedures were followed. Good suggestions were made which streamlined our financial reports. These suggestions were implemented.

In December, we conducted another audit covering 2010 and 2011. The audit was conducted by Al Pitcher assisted by Roger Blanton and Tom Gadacz.

Some of the conclusions stated that general accounting methods were being followed, the statements reflect internal controls and documentation supports the income and expenses of the Club. It was recommended that an external hard drive be purchased to maintain an electronic backup of the financial data as well as board minutes and sensitive documents. The full report can be obtained from Roger Blanton, Treasurer.

We appreciate the expertise and work that Al Pitcher put into this audit. Tom Gadacz

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SFF News and Information

Casting Tips by Capt. Pat Damico, MCI

Casting Tip 25:

Should I cast vertically or move my rod to a more horizontal position? At a recent casting clinic I asked if anyone experienced pain or discomfort while casting? The participant closest to me stepped forward and I had him stand and hold his rod where he usually begins a forward cast, which was almost vertical. Holding the rod from behind I asked him to start his cast. Against my resistance he experienced some pain. As he moved the rod more horizontally, I repeated the resistance and the pain dissipated. Clearly his best casting position was away from vertical. If you are experiencing pain while casting, avoid the same casting position. When casting with a friend, try this simple exercise.

Nominating Committee

The SFF Board of Directors have confirmed the appointment of Joe Dail, Mark Hays and Richard Oldenski to serve on the nominating committee. The Committee will select a chairman and come up with two candidates for the board at the February meeting. The Committee is welcome to attend the board meeting on February 2nd at 7:00pm at John Craig's shop (at 4450 Morris Street N -corner of 38th Ave N and 35th Street).

President and vice president positions are up for election and the incumbents (Tom Gadacz and Woody Miller) are eligible for another term and are willing to be re-elected. Four board members are up for election and can be re-elected. Mark Craig and Alan Sewell are willing to be re-elected but Paul Sequira and Ken Doty do not wish to be re-elected. Hence, two new board members need to be nominated for a two year term.

The Board of Directors appreciates your willingness to serve on the committee and if we can be of any help, please let us know.Tom Gadacz

Florida Council FFF Fly Casting Clinics by Pete Greenan

Gentlemen.

I have been asked by the President of the Fl. Council, Bill Gunn, to prepare a casting program that will migrate across the state to bring the services of the FFF to the members.

So... I've devised a plan to stage casting demonstrations and instruction in six different areas of the state and selected the people I'd like to have manage these programs. Understand that the cost of putting these on will be borne by the council. The programs will be free for members and require a small fee for non-members unless they join the FFF. Here is a breakdown of the timing.

- 1. Rich Santos St. Augustine-February
- 2. Oscar Feliu The Villages March
- 3. Dr. Jim Penrod Tallahassee April
- 4. Gary Meyer Ft. Lauderdale June
- 5. Pat Damico Tampa/St. Pete September
- 6. Dusty Sprague/Joe Mahler Ft. Meyers December

Dusty & I will put the program together so they all look the same and will be easy to follow. What I'm asking of you is to find an appropriate location, arrange to have refreshments brought in and to gather some helpers to run the program. It is important to use FFF instructors or the equivalent to maintain continuity. Equipment needs can be addressed by the council through me. Location can be a county park or school ball field or other areas that allow plenty of casting room.

The program will include an introduction to fly fishing, basic casting mechanics, knots & leaders, local fly selection and local fishing opportunities. All instructors should wear FFF logos wherever possible. I will ask the council to produce an appropriate banner to display the program and announce our presence. I will be sending a printable brochure when the program is complete. We will ask all clubs to advertise this in their newsletters and on their web-sites. It will be helpful if you can send me local media contacts for a press release.

I hope you can all participate. The council is doing a superb job of educating Florida anglers in the fun of flyfishing. This program is a continuation of that education. On behalf of Bill and the rest of the council officers Iwant to thank you all for the great job you've done in the past and feel confident we can be known as the gateway to fly fishing in Florida. BTW, we will entertain a name for this program. Any ideas?

C.W. "Don" Coleman and the Don Coleman Classic By Tom Gadacz (with an assist from Paul Sequira)

This past month we honored C. W. "Don" Coleman at our outing at Ft. DeSoto. It was a great time with excellent weather and guests from the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers, the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers. Ray Cannata was a sport and played the role of the guest judge at the Texas Chili Cook Off skit. Allan Sewell provided great chili and Robert Fischer brought his favorite jambalaya.

I and many of our new members did not have the opportunity to meet and know Don Coleman. Paul Sequira had an excellent write up on Don in the April, 2006 issue of "On the Fly." Don was born in April of 1922 and spent most of his life in New York, mainly in Binghamton. When he was about 8 years old, he fished and hunted with his father. They belonged to a fishing



Don Coleman (right) doing what he loved best — teaching fly tying to a youngster. This picture was taken at Carl Hansen's house sometime in the mid-90s by Layne Smith

and hunting club and competed in various events. During World War II Don served as Navy radio operator and saw extensive action in the North Atlantic. He received an engineering degree from Cornell University and served as the Broome County Highway & Roads Commissioner. He designed many of the roads and bridges in upstate New York. Don designed and built their home in Binghamton. This included digging and laying the foundation, laying all the brick for the walls, and installing all the electricity and plumbing. Don had a good teacher, his father, who was a stonemason and bricklayer. Upon retirement, Don and his wife Beverly decided to spend the winter months here in Florida.

Don retired around 1987 and spent a couple of winters on the east coast of Florida, but then settled on the west coast where he was more familiar having spent vacations as a youngster. He and Bev rented apartments for a while but then settled on a convenient trailer park where they purchased a comfortable trailer. Don and Paul Sequira met (in 1992) at Carl Hanson's house and a great friendship began. Both had a common interest in fly fishing and had fished some of the same streams in New York's Catskill Mountains. They spent many a fishing day together mainly wading along the coast from Honeymoon Island to Emerson Point. Ft. DeSoto and the Skyway were two favorite spots. Don was a fly fishing enthusiast and teacher. He read about new techniques and tested them. He tried new fly tying materials and simplified tying techniques and would share them with others. One of his rules included that it had to take less than ten minutes to tie. He also read about new casting techniques and he and Paul would put them to the test in the field. Most were rejected but the good ones were passed along. Don was an amiable person and loved to meet and discuss fly fishing with anyone. He shared his experience and talent with anyone who was interested and many benefited from sitting at Don's table at Carl Hanson's house and at John Homer's shop. His go to favorite flies included the Clouser Deep Minnow, Carl's Bend Back Glass Minnow, Lefty's Deceiver, Seaducer and Tabory's Snake Fly.

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C.W. "Don" Colemancontinued

Don compiled his fishing experience in the booklet entitled "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod." Don dedicated the publication to his wife Beverly "And to my good friend and fishing partner Paul Sequira who keeps me going in the right direction...And to the memory of Carl Hanson who went to fish from that other shore on June 7, 1998 and who taught me that "The only thing you have that you can give away and still keep is your knowledge."" This is great advice and those sentiments are expressed as part of the SFF Aims and Purpose (see page 8). He also gave special thanks to all his friends in Suncoast Fly Fishers. Don passed away on April 5, 2006 and the Suncoast Fly Fishers Board agreed to name the December outing at Ft. DeSoto the "Don Coleman Classic." We celebrated the 6th annual Don Coleman Classic this past December.



Don Coleman with a nice spotted sea trout caught at Ft DeSoto the day before his birthday in 2000. We had a terrific day's fishing that day with many trout and ladyfish landed. Don was particularly pleased because the next day he and Beverly headed back to Binghamton for the summer months. Don thought it was a great way to finish his Florida stay that year. Paul Sequira photo

Every member receives a copy of Don's

book. If you have not read the book, please do so. It has valuable information about fly fishing and life as a fly fisher. It is the go to source for anyone who fly fishes this area. Would you like to know what rod, reel, line and tippet to use? He gives you the scoop on wading the flats and how to catch fish. Don't wait for a windy or bad weather day to read it. Take a break from winter fly tying. For those of us who did not know Don, read his book and your life will also be richer. For those of you who knew Don, I envy you.Tom

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SFF News and Views

SFF Welcomes New Member

The Suncoast Fly Fishers welcome new member Vincent Taaffe of Largo. Vincent, we hope that you will find your membership with SFF rewarding and enjoyable. Our club offers many activities and benefits as described on page 8 of this newsletter.

Fly Casting Help

Fly casting help and instruction usually held between 6:00 & 7:00 p.m. before the monthly meeting has been temporarily suspended because of darkness. It will resume in the spring.

Editor's Page by Paul Sequira

Well actually I guess it would be more appropriately called the Editor's Third Of A Page. Nevertheless, SFF has a lot of stuff lined up for 2012. Your Board of Directors has been busy making plans and putting some of them into motion already. Starting with the program for the January 20th meeting when we have our Annual Trash and Treasures Auction. Don't miss this meeting; it is one of the best and most fun of the year. Bring in your unwanted or no longer used fishing tackle, flies, household items or anything else you no longer have use for, donate it to the club and let Alan Sewell auction it off. You'll have a great time and the club will make a few dollars to give you those free lunches at the club outings, casting clinics and pay the rent at our terrific Walter Fuller meeting facility. Don't forget your wallet — you are encouraged to buy this stuff.

Future meetings will feature programs by Alan Wyatt of the Andy Thornal shop who will talk about fishing in the Lakeland area, Chris Anderson from FWCC on Tampa Bay maps, tide and current information and how to download them from the internet and Robert Fischer who has logged some 57 different species of fish on the fly and will tell us how to find and catch some of these marvelous fish in our area. That's just a few of the excellent programs lined up. Fly tyers lined up are Alan Wyatt, Layne Smith and Robert Fischer. Of course they'll be demonstrating flies appropriate to the programs and now that we have extended the fly tying demo time to a full hour, our tyers will not be rushed.

The Hog Roast! Mark and Marianne Hays are already hard at work lining up a good location for our main event of the year. Target dates are either march 24th or March 31st. Captain Bob has agreed to once again provide the musical entertainment. Last year's caterer did a great job and it looks like we will go with Leroy again. Now we need your help. A Hog Roast Committee will be formed and if you think you can be of assistance, please let Tom Gadacz know that you will be available. Of course we need donations of auction items so start thinking of that too.

Another popular and fun weekend coming up is our annual Everglades Special Event scheduled date being April 27 through 29, 2012. This is a great event and another highlight of the year for SFF. The last couple of years we experienced exceptionally cold winters and the resulting cold waters in the Everglades reduced the number of the non-native exotic species but it gave a chance for our native largemouth bass, bluegills, shell crackers populations to thrive and grow. Last year SFF members who fished the Glades reported unprecedented catches of these fish. Don Manning will be our contact for hotel reservations and we will have more information. Go to the club website www.suncoastflyfishers.com and check out the April 2011 issue of the newsletter for my article "What's The Story On The Everglades" on pages 10 and 11 for all the information you will need for a successful trip.

SFF will be working at several local area shows in 2012 including the Tampa Tribune Expo (formerly known as the Frank Sergeant Show) March 2- 4 at the Florida State Fairgrounds and the Florida Sportsman Show, Sept. 22-23 along with several other local FFF clubs. Pat Damico will be conducting casting demos and clinics at both of these events. Marine Quest at the USF campus in St Petersburg is also in the works. Once again Bill AuCoin has stepped up to the plate to be SFF's coordinator for these programs and he will need member volunteers to provide fly tying demos and instructions and some good talkers too, to tell all the visitors about the benefits of being members of SFF.

FOR SALE: Sage DS2-690 2 piece 6 weight graphite fly rod \$200. Lightly used and in excellent condition. Call Richard Doty 727-320-7637

Tying Bench — Removable Weed/Snag Guard by Ken Roy

Okay, it is not fly tying but since no one has sent me anything for this column in a very long time, and frankly I don't have the energy or the desire to whip up another one this month; so I thought I'd include this interesting method of producing a weed guard (also referred to by some people as a fish guard) that can be added or removed from your fly as desired. Ken Doty passed this on to me several months ago from his friend Ken Roy.PS

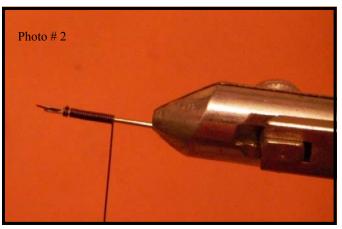
I fish shallow, grassy and snaggy water at least 90% of the time. A fly without some sort of snag protection gets fouled or hung every few casts. I've experimented with every sort of weed guard imaginable and have settled on a few that work for me.

Weed guards that are tied right into the fly sometimes make tying an awkward experience. I've experimented with removable weed guards for at least 10 years and my latest version works best and is super simple to make.

Here is how I make a removable weed guard. All I use is my el cheapo rotary vise, small wire cutters, a sewing needle and a little number 2 or 3 single strand leader wire.

- First: Lock a regular sewing needle into your rotary vise as shown in photo #1 with the needle eye extending about 5/8" past the end of the vise jaws.
- Second: Insert the end of the leader wire through the needle eye and wind the wire tightly around the needle as shown in photo #2
- Third: remove the needle from your vise and slip the coiled wire off the needle.
- Fourth: trim the almost completed weed guard as shown in photo #3. The guard on the far right side of the photo shows how to make the final bends. After making a few, you will get it exactly right. This photo also shows how the weed guard is used.







All photos by Ken Roy

To install the weed guard, simply slip it on to your leader before tying on the fly. Tie on your fly, then slip the long end of the wire through the eye of your hook and carefully pull the leader tight through the coil.

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



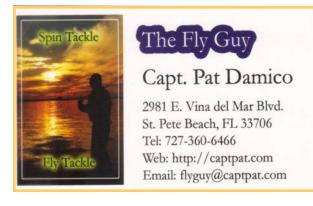


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Suncoast Fly Fishers Advertisers

















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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

Photo right: A note from Pat Damico tells us "Brad and I did some backcountry fly fishing last day of 2011. One of the results!"

What a great way to end the year!

Photo—Pat Damico



Photo below left: Annie Hays shows us her custom made wooden carved fly box, a gift from FFF given to all of the selected participants of last year's Bighorn River Youth Adventure, a four day fly tying and fishing adventure.

Photo on the right is a close up of the fly box.

Photos - Paul Sequira





SFF Photo Gallery—Don Coleman Classic











Various photos of the terrific crowd at the December 2011 gathering for SFF's tribute to our dear departed and much missed friend, Don Coleman. Members from the Suncoast Fly Fishers, guests from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers gathered to honor Don, eat chili and catch a bunch of fish. It was a great time, sorry if you missed it.

Photos - Paul Sequira

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 Seguira - 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: January 19, 2012
Time: 6:00-7:00 PM Setup auction tables
7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program
Location: Walter Fuller Park
7891 26 Avenue, N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710
Program - SFF's Trash or Treasures Auction
Alan Sewell Auctioneering
all the stuff you donate

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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