

# On The Fly

June 2012 Volume 22, Issue 6

## The Prez Sez



### **June's Tie a Thon Meeting. 6:00 pm**

This month's meeting is our tie a thon. Bring your vises, fly tying tools and fly tying material. If you are a fly tier bring your stuff and show us how to tie your favorite fly.

For those who tie but would like to improve your technique bring your stuff and tie along with one of the more experienced tiers. If you don't have a vise, tools or material come and try your hand at fly tying.

We will have four club vises and tools. This is a session especially tailored to introduce you to fly tying. We will have experts tying fresh and salt-water flies. This session is for all levels of fly fishers – experts, beginners and those with no experience. This is a session of see one, do one and teach one.

*We will have plenty of pizza in case you work up an appetite.*

If you wish to observe, that's OK. Come and enjoy a tie a thon session. Please note that the meeting will begin a 6:00pm there will not be a fly-casting session.

### **SFF and the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum**

On behalf of the directors and board we wish to thank you for your enthusiastic support for our joint venture with the *Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum*. We have been working with Jim Simons, director of the facility, to become involved in three projects.:

1. The first is an exhibition on the history of fly fishing and fly fishing in this area. This will be a permanent exhibition in the facility.
2. The second program is a fly fishing course for adults and high school children at the museum.
3. The third program is an interaction with high school fishing clubs in the Pinellas school system.

Jim has established several clubs in the schools with several hundred students. In this program we would be meeting at the school with club members and introduce them to fly fishing. *If you were not present at the last meeting and did not sign up for one of these programs, let us know your interest.* Kirk Burton is heading the program and Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski and I are also involved. We see this as a tremendous opportunity to reach into the community and share the fun we have fly fishing. Educating others about fly fishing, promoting fly fishing with youths and promulgating marine conservation are part of our values.

*Please read the article by Ken Hofmeister on page 4 for more details and the meeting at the Center on June 23 from 10:00 AM to noon for those who are interested in the school and fly fishing course. The Center is located at 12211 Walsingham Road in Largo. Thank you for your support!*

*Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers*

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# We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

## Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

## Club Officers

President: Tom Gadacz 727-360-8030

Vice President: Woody Miller, 727-560-6086

Secretary: Ken Hofmeister 725-521-1637

Treasurer: Roger Blanton

## Board of Directors

Dan Bumgarner – Kirk Burton

Hugh Copeland – Mark Craig

Pat Damico – Myron Hansen, – Alan Sewell

## Committees

*Volunteers welcome. Please speak to any director.*

Casting Skills – Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

FFF Liason—Pat Damico

Fly Tying – Myron Hansen

Membership – Roger Blanton

Newsletter/Publicity – Bill AuCoin

Webmaster – Woody Miller

Hog Roast – Richard Oldenski

Outings – Alan Sewell

Outing lunches – Richard Oldenski, Mark Hays

Project Healing Waters – John Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick

Raffles – Tom Hummel, Bryan Jankovic

Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing – Kirk Burton, Tom Gadacz, Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski

Programs: Board of directors

## Visit your club's website

<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/>

[Click here for a membership application](#)

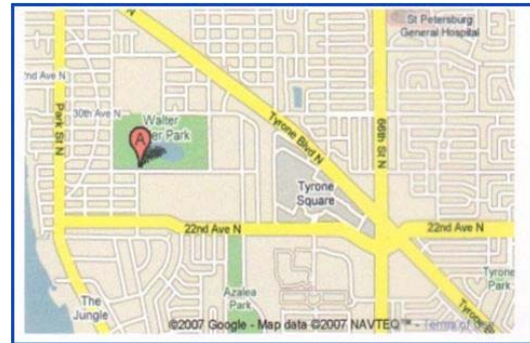
## Monthly Meetings

Suncoast Fly Fishers meet on the third Thursday of each month (except December) at Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26 Avenue N. St. Petersburg, FL 33710

6:00 – 7:00 pm – Fly tying and casting

(fly tying only at June meeting)

7:00—8:00 pm – Meeting and program



Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26 Avenue N. St. Pete

## SFF Club Calendar

- June 21, Meeting, Walter Fuller Park, Fly-tie-a-thon. Free pizza. 6 – 8 pm
- June 23-24, outing, dock light fishing
- July 19, meeting, Walter Fuller Park
- July 21, outing. Hillsborough River float
- August 16, meeting, Walter Fuller Park
- August 18, outing, Fred Howard Park/Anclote River, Tarpon Springs
- September 8, Fly Casting Clinic with Pat Damico (MCI)
- September 22-23, Florida Sportsman Show, Tampa Fairgrounds
- November 10. Marine Quest, Tie your first fly event. Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, St. Petersburg

Share your opinions, fishing tips and photos, ideas. suggestions, concerns. Got something to sell or swap? Email newsletter editor Bill AuCoin, [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net)

# Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n Notes

## Project Healing Waters: Bay Pines Vet Wins National Rod Contest

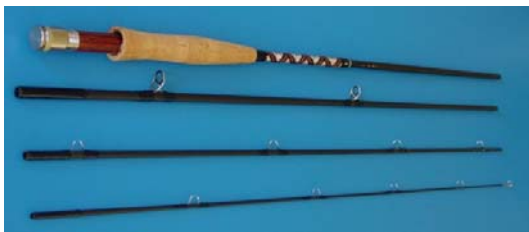
By Capt. Pat Damico,  
*Deep South Area Coordinator*  
*Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing*  
[www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org)

Patricia Hodge, one of the veterans at Bay Pines VA Healthcare Center, has won first place in the national Project Healing Waters fly rod-building contest. Hodge won an expedition and accommodations at the beautiful Blue Valley Ranch in Kremmling, Colorado.

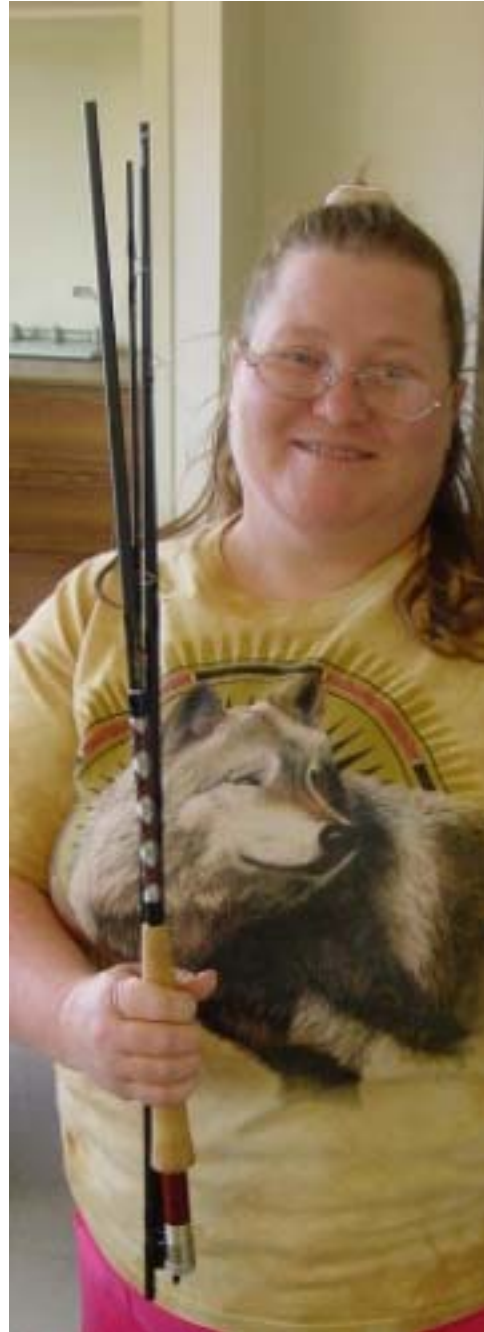
The rod that Hodge made under the guidance of Suncoast Fly Fisher Alan Sewell was judged first in category 2 in the program's annual rod building contest.

This is a great tribute to Alan's work carefully guiding our disabled veterans through the complicated process. Fly-rod components were supplied by Project Healing Waters to vets to build their own fly rod.

Terry (Kirkpatrick) and John (Craig) also should feel a deep sense of pride for this accomplishment. This is another reason why Suncoast Fly Fishers is a leader and model for other clubs.



*Patricia Hodge (r) and her four-piece fly rod (above) that won the national competition. Visit Project Healing Waters online to learn more about this organization and the ways that fly fishing helps disabled personnel and veterans.*



## Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n Notes

### ***UPDATE: FLORIDA GULF COAST CENTER FOR FISHING AND INTERACTIVE MUSEUM***

*By Ken Hofmeister*

Fasten your seat belts—this thing is burning rubber already!

Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Center for Fishing have entered into a partnership to educate youth and adults about the history of fly fishing (especially in Pinellas County). SFF has a dedicated 18- by 11-foot wall on which to tell our story on the history of fly fishing.

We will also be doing ten minute introduction to fly fishing presentations in high school and middle school fishing clubs when school starts up again. Think 18 high schools with over 1,000 youth already enrolled in fishing clubs. Middle school interest is strong and these clubs will be coming on line in the fall.

Finally, we will be conducting a “fly fishing 101 course” in the Center’s classroom for up to 21 adult/youth participants (Two 90 minute sessions, July 11 and July 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.) Tentative cost for the course would be \$45.00 (to be split 50/50 between the Center and Suncoast Fly Fishers). We envision breaking these classes into three “hands on” groups of seven and rotating between casting, fly tying, knot tying—rigging—first aid—and conservation. Suncoast members interested in helping to facilitate/coach these sessions will have another chance to sign up at the June 21 SFF membership meeting.

***We will have an organizational meeting for all those helping with the instruction on Saturday morning June 23 from 10:00-12:00 at the Center. In this meeting, we'll agree upon outcomes, agenda, roles, and approaches.***

What an opportunity! We can “hook” a future generation of fly fishers and introduce countless adults to the joys of our sport. The Center has superb facilities, and excellent promotional capabilities. SFF, working in concert with the Center, can have a huge impact.

# Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n Notes

## June 21 meeting...

- JUNE IS THE FREE PIZZA MEETING. The June 21 meeting is the annual SFF Tie-a-Thon including – come hungry – free pizza and cold drinks. No fly casting, just fly tying. It starts at 6 pm and ends at 8 pm. If you're a fly-tyer, be sure to bring your vise and tying materials. But if you're not, then get to the meeting early and borrow one of the club's vises, etc. and go to tying-school next to a master.
- SWAP YOUR FLIES FOR HIS FLIES. Myron Hansen has designed the perfect fly exchange program. Here's how to participate. Talk to Myron at the June meeting and agree to swap three flies at the July meeting. Then bring freshwater flies to the July meeting and give them to Myron. He will then call tyers one at a time to pick up three flies. This will give you more fly box ammunition to float and fish the Hillsborough River at the club's July outing.

## Welcome, New SFF Members

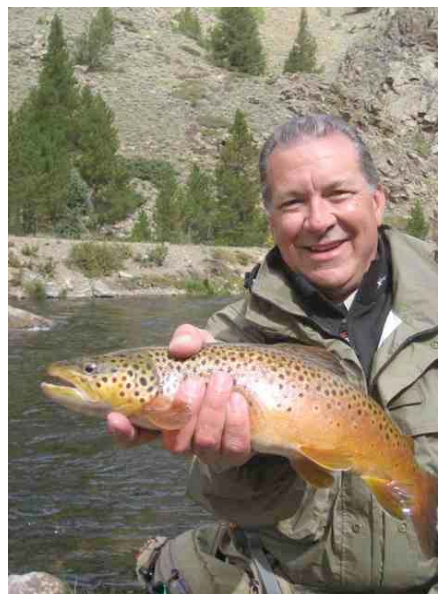
Bill Gross  
1960 Kansas Avenue NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703  
(586) 850-7059

Wes Demmons  
6025 Sun Blvd # 103  
St. Petersburg, FL 33715  
(312) 451-4874

### New member Bill Gross writes...

First off, I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome over the last two months. I have belonged to several fly-fishing groups over the years, but none have been as open, active and community minded as Suncoast Fly Fishers. I look forward to meeting all of you, getting out on the water together and being an active member.

I moved to Venetian Isles from Palm Harbor about one year ago. I am still getting familiar with the water in the area, but one piece of water that is very familiar to me is the water around my dock at night. One of the first things I installed at the new house were underwater snook lights - that will give you a hint of where my priorities are. Just like the snook are attracted to the lights, so is Ken Hofmeister. I was out on the dock one night and Ken motored up and we were both encouraged see another fly fisherman out that night instead of watching TV. Ken was even more intrigued with the fact that I was throwing a 2-weight rod. Ken said that anyone crazy enough to be throwing a 2-weight rod for trout has join the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Ken, thanks for the introduction.



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I grew up in Michigan and have been fly-fishing for over 40 years. I was fortunate to have been able to fish some of the best trout rivers in the Mid West, including the Muskegon, Pere Marquette, Manistee and Au Sable to chase Steelhead and Salmon. I still get back to Michigan fairly often to visit our two oldest boys and the trip always includes time on the river. Again , I look forward to meeting everyone.

*Editor's note: Welcome Wes and Bill. Nice fish, Bill. On The Fly invites each new member to send us a note (and a picture, if you have one) introducing yourself to the club. Send them to Bill AuCoin, [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net), or by mail.*

## **Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews**



### *May 19, Emerson Point*

The SFF had its May outing at Emerson Point in Palmetto. This area is a good place to fish. Nice area to wade or paddle. However, that weekend the winds blew hard and made fishing with a flyrod hard. Many members did attend and we had another great outing. We had good food, prepared by Richard Oldenski, a lot of fun with good Federation of Fly Fishing friends. Some fish were also caught. It was still a good outing.

### *June 23-24, Dock Light Fishing*

This is the club's annual night-time fishing adventure. Club members will be fishing anytime between 10:00 pm Saturday until 6:00am Sunday, June 17th. Fishing area will be anywhere in Pinellas County. You can boat, paddle or wade for fish. This is an outing that may require a boat. We will have a sign-up sheet to see if there are any openings in members' boats. A \$30 gift certificate will be awarded to the SFF member who catches a slam -- Snook, Trout, and Redfish -- with the highest total length. No breakfast at this outing. Call Alan at 470-4570 after 2:00 pm Sunday with your results. NOTE -- See Capt. Pat Damico's dock light fishing tips on page 6.

### *July 21, Hillsborough River*

Club members will float-fish the Hillsborough River for this outing from Morris Bridge Park to Trout Creek Park where lunch will be served. ALL members will have a kayak on this trip. This is a great trip to bring your family. Float time is two hours but fishing and observing nature will add another hour or two. Lunch will be served at noon.

### *Update: Fishing Tournament*

**Trout - Mark Hays - 18.5 inches**

Bass - open

Snook - open

Redfish - open

Sunfish - open

Other Fish - open

IMPORTANT -- All fish must meet minimum size by FWC rules. Any fish may be entered for each category when we are having an outing and you must pass the strictest interrogation.



### *August 18, Tarpon Springs -- Fred Howard Park/Anclote River*

*Capt. Pat Damico's tips on dock light fishing>>>>>*

## Extend drag free drift

*By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor*



**Casting tip # 31:** Our last tip introduced a reach cast, one of the most useful techniques to get a drag free drift when fishing mixed currents especially with a dry fly. To extend this cast before the line would tighten and induce drag, move your rod tip vertically up and down in quick strokes as more line is played into the stripping guide. This will allow you to extend your cast and drag free presentation covering more fish holding water.

## Ready Set Go

***June's monthly outing for Suncoast Fly Fishers is dock light fishing on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Here are ten lighted dock tips courtesy of SFF member Capt. Pat Damico.***

1. Nine-foot, fast-action rods in eight or nine weight should be equipped with thirty-pound fluorocarbon shock tippets.
2. Pick an area where there are a lot of lights mounted close to the water in areas near deeper water.
3. Fish when there is maximum tidal flow. Fish will face into the current.
4. Fish slow-sinking shrimp and baitfish flies.
5. Wear a hat-brim light to change flies and unhook fish at the boat.
6. Crimp the barbs on flies, it will make release easier.
7. Use a stripping basket.
8. Keep the rod tip close to the water.
9. Stealth is key. Noise should be eliminated.
10. If you get a hookup use your electric (but not in reverse) to move away from the dock.



## ***Robert Fischer: More Species = Maximizing Fun***

By Bill AuCoin

Suncoast Fly Fisher Robert Fischer has caught 77 - - oh, wait, make that 78 -- different fish species on a fly.

Fischer has landed saltwater stars like tarpon, bonefish, permit and snook...freshwater gamesters like salmon...exotics like barramundi, oscar and Mayan cichlids...and even offbeat characters like squid.

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"I am not a species snob," he said. "I release practically everything I catch so what does it really matter what kind of fish it is as long as it fights well?"

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If the Guinness book of records has a category for this quest, he didn't mention it. Seeing his name in a record book isn't what motivates him. He just loves to fish with a fly rod anywhere-anytime, and is ready to maximize the fun of it no matter what.

Maximizing the fun of it also includes catching that fish, whatever the species, on a rod that is smaller than you're thinking is wise. If the experts say use a 10-weight, he casts a 7. If they like the 7-weight, he's using a 5.

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Once he used a 2-weight with a 2# tippet to catch a legal dolphin. He said, "I just wanted to see if I could do it."

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At the May meeting he showed us slides of catches and some bent-rod photos, too. He passed around boxes holding hundreds of his favorite flies, big and small. Some dainty; some not so. Some stay on top and make a racket. Some sink slowly; some drop like a rock. One imitated a very long, sinewy snake-like creature that he ties with two hooks to catch 'cuda, one of the unsavory characters he has befriended. "Actually, I like to catch barracuda," he said.

Fischer tilts toward flies tied by people he knows. Recently he caught Arkansas White River brown trout casting our club's Layne Smith Sponge Spider. His go-to saltwater fly is Smitty's Glass Minnow. It's called maximizing fun.



*Fischer with a Crystal River Flats cobia*



*Tampa Bay wade-fishing speckled trout*



*Unsavory character? "Actually, I like to catch barracuda," Fischer said. Once he caught a squid just, you know, "to see if I could do it."*



## Tying Bench – Golden Eye Shrimp by Robert Fischer



*Jim Orthwein's Golden Eye Shrimp*

**Robert Fischer said** ..."I originally saw it in a magazine article about flies that had caught 10-pound bonefish. On a trip to Peace and Plenty in the Exumas it was eaten by every fish that saw it. Fish it slow with 2-inch strips to make it hop and twist. I like a light, 10# or 8# leader tied with a loop knot. Most hits come on the fall. I caught a 19-inch trout with it at Jensen Beach last Saturday. Layne **(Smitty) Smith told us** ... "This fly holds three records for bonefish and it's a killer for all inshore species. It fishes best with a 5 weight up to an 8 weight."

### Materials

Hook: Mustad 9674, 38941, (bronze hooks) 34011 (saltwater) or Partridge CS 54 in sizes 2-6.  
Thread: Beige Monocord #340 or Flat Waxed Nylon  
Antennae: Peccary bristles or Moose Mane  
Eyes: Medium gold bead chain (1/8 inch)  
Head/Face: #15B Nugget Gold Fish Hair  
Body: Gold Mylar tubing / Over-wrapped with clear V-Rib (large)



*Robert Fischer tied his version of the Golden Eye Shrimp at the May meeting. Originally antennae were tied with boar's hair.*

### Original Tying Sequence

1. Pre-bend hook down at both ends and then open hook gap slightly (for better hook set). [See note below.](#)
2. Lay down a base wrap of thread from hook eye to bend of hook.
3. Separate a small bunch (when stretched about the width of a matchstick) of Fish Hair from bundle with a pair of pliers. Just crack welded end away. **\*\*Do not cut from hank\*\*** and leave the small welded section attached (it helps control material when tying).
4. Tie in loose ends of Fish Hair allowing about 3/8 of an inch extend beyond bend of hook (mouth parts)... **DO NOT CUT** at this time.
5. Tie in two peccary bristles (one each side) for antennae.
6. Fold Fish Hair hank toward bend. Secure with material clip.
7. Measure and cut Mylar tubing hook length allowing a frayed section to extend about half the distance of mouth portion of Fish Hair (you can trim later if you got too much). Slide over hook shank and tie down at hook bend.
8. Tie in bead chain eyes with figure of eight wraps. Secure with Sally Hansen if you like.
9. Cut fluff off saddle hackle and discard. Tie in V-Rib on underside of hook behind bead chain. Tie in hackle by butt end (not tip) at same tie in point as V-Rib.
10. Bring thread to end of hook in w-i-d-e open wraps (about 3 wraps). Overwrap with V-Rib to hook eye and tie off and trim excess and then palmer hackle feather in open wraps (about every second rib) allowing stem to fall in between rib sections. Tie off and trim excess. Trim hackle off top and sides leaving bottom to represent legs.
11. At this time retrieve Fish Hair and twist into tight rope and lay down on top of V-Rib for carapace and tie off at hook eye.
12. Allow Fish Hair to unwind and then pull back toward hook bend overwrapping with thread "**ON SIDE OF HOOK**" about 5 or 6 wraps. Pull remaining material toward you (90 degree angle to hook) and make 3 or 4 wraps in front to make material stick out at 45 degrees facing hook bend. Cut leaving about 1 inch piece for tail.
13. Coat twisted Fish Hair carapace and Tail with liberal amounts of Hard as Nails.
14. Flatten tail between thumb and finger and blow on it till the Hard as Nails sets in a flap shape that is **perpendicular** to hook shank.
15. When completely dry, trim tail flap to about 3/8 of an inch.

**NOTE.** Originator Jim Orthwein bent the hook shank *after* the fly was completed to make carapace adhere tightly to the body. I feel it works just as well to do it before tying the fly and it's a lot more convenient. Let Sally Hansen do *her* job!!!

## Member Tip of the Month

### **Veggie flies catch carp. So...why not veggie flies to catch mullet?**

By Tom  
Jones

Here's a  
radical  
thought:

*Carp anglers  
catch carp on  
vegetation  
flies.*

*So why can't  
we catch mullet that way?*



Indeed!

I was out fly fishing lighted docks last night and my usual go-to flies were being ignored.

The trout and redfish were chasing very small minnows through the light, so I tied on a tiny fly that Pat Damico had given me. It was about an inch long, forest green back, white belly, made of a fine, flashy synthetic hair and it had tiny orange eyes. (The action I was seeing was on top so this fly had no lead.

Before long, I had boated two legal speckled trout. By this time, my visiting British fishing buddy had caught two catfish on live shrimp. (Hey, I warned him that could happen!) He soon switched to my spare fly rod and caught a nice trout on a small Clouser.

Then, I lost the fly to the post supporting the dock.

The day before, I had tried to mimic the now lost fly by using a new material, Steve Farrar's Flash Blend, Wild Olive and White. The material was hard to manage and simply would not make a small compact fish body like the fly I got from Pat. It was just too kinky. But I tied two flies with it, anyway, as an experiment.

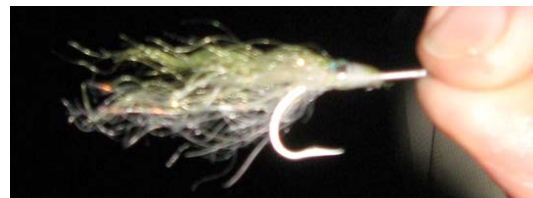


*Tom's mullet-fly trophy: "No, I did not snag it"*

So, I tied on one of my experimental flies and, after several casts, trying various stripping techniques, I caught a 16 1/2" trout.

The next prize, on the same fly, believe it or not, was a 19 1/4-inch mullet (I didn't stutter), and no, I didn't snag it!

I can only imagine that the mullet saw the scroungy looking fly as a frizzy piece of vegetation.



*Tom's mullet fly, like a frizzy piece of  
vegetation. Just "matching the hatch," you  
could say*

Members, got a fishing tip for *On The Fly*?  
Contact Bill AuCoin, [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net)  
or 727-522-2371.

# Suncoast Fly Fisher Fishing Report

## ***The Big Thompson River***

By Tom Gadacz

President, Suncoast Fly Fishers

On our annual trip to Colorado we celebrated grandson, Moss McLaughlin's graduation from Boulder High and a family reunion. My fishing trip consisted of trying my luck on the Big Thompson River.

To warm up for a guided trip with Moss I fished for two days in Rocky Mountain National Park just inside the Beaver Meadows entrance. It was cool but sunny.

Using a #18 midge and a #20 bead-head nymph dropper several small brook trout were caught on the dropper. Several other combinations of flies did not improve my catch number or the size of the fish. I'm sure I missed several strikes while being distracted by wandering elk and a nest of fledgling great horned owls. Two very young owls were standing on the edge of the nest eagerly waiting for food from the hunting adult.

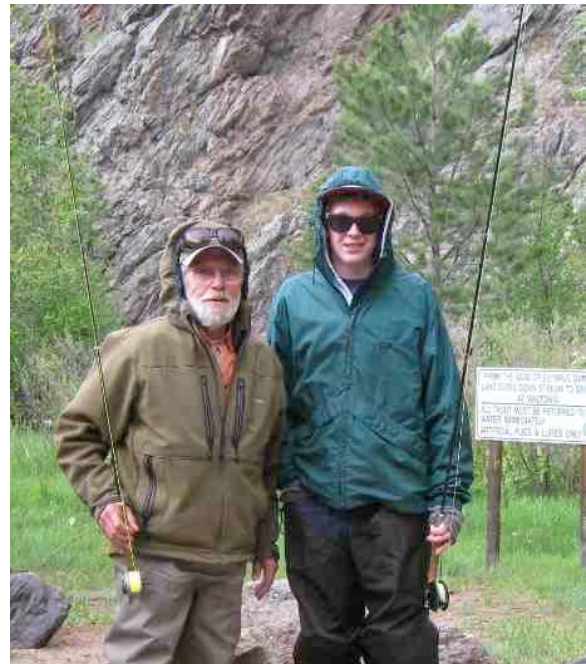
Our big fishing day was with our guide, John Clark. John has fished and guided in the area for over 30 years and knew several good spots as well as the holes that held fish. Despite my solo two days of great weather, the early sunny morning turned into a day of rain, then rain and wind and finally some marble sized hail. Moss did well catching and landing 4 medium sized rainbows (Photo).

There was no hatch and what was evident seemed to be these tiny midges. The rigs John set up for us were new to me. We had three dropper flies and a lead strike indicator. A frog hair strike indicator above a split shot about one and one half times the depth of the water, then the lead fly which was a Vince Wilcox Little Green Machine #20 olive BWO nymph, then a #24 midge emerger jujubee

blue and a #26 midge larva olive-black. The hook-ups were on the emerger and larva.



*Tom Gadacz' grandson, Moss McLaughlin, and a Big Thompson rainbow*



*Guide John Clark and Moss McLaughlin*

We started at the dam outlet of Estes Park Lake and worked our way downstream. After 6+ hours of fishing we called it a day. It felt good to be in a warm car on our drive back to our daughter's house in Boulder.

## Suncoast Fly Fisher Fishing Report

### ***Lake Okeechobee Feeding Frenzy***

*SFF members Ken Hofmeister and David Putnam fished Lake Okeechobee June 5, catching more than 185 bream and shell crackers averaging more than eight-inches.*

By Ken Hofmeister

Oh...Okeechobee. Fortified with coffee, David Putnam and Ken Hofmeister left St. Petersburg for an undisclosed location on Lake Okeechobee 6-5-12. Fly patterns and fishing strategies were discussed on the drive south. David's new Towee boat was launched at 9:15 and we were fishing by 9:30. Driving under a full moon, hope was high. Isn't it always?

Ken used a St. Johns Sinker to catch the first five bluegills in the first fifteen minutes. "This was going to be a good day," he thought. Then, surrounded by fish, he noted that they stopped biting.

Both Ken and David turned to their fly boxes and tried all sorts of things. Nothing hit on the surface. Ken watched them swim up to and turn away from an impressive array of colorful sub-surface flies. Finally, David found a green chenille pattern with black legs that worked. . . and worked . . . and worked until they pulled the legs off. Ken switched to a sparkly brown weighted sub-surface fly with chartreuse head and lots of black legs that got trimmed to ½ inch. It worked . . . and kept working after 185 or so shell crackers and bluegill had been landed.

As usual, there were lessons to be learned. First: fish where the fish are. We could see them swimming around our feet. Next, keep trying until you find what they will hit. The overcast conditions called for darker rather than more colorful flies. Since we were finding large shell crackers in abundance, we kept the sub-surface flies moving with steady strips and a few jerks.



*Members Ken Hofmeister and David Putnam caught more than 185 bluegill and shell crackers June 5 on Lake Okeechobee. Where exactly? "In the mouth," Ken said.*



*One of several Lake Okeechobee bass caught by Suncoast Fly Fisher David Putnam.*

A search for bass didn't turn up much—David caught a few; however, Ken quickly went back to catching the eager bluegills and shell crackers that were still waiting. You know, "a fish in hand." You may be asking: "Where did you catch them?" Most of these fish were caught in the water (or in the mouth).

*Next, reports from the Warfels, Masseys and Damico>>>>>*

## Suncoast Fly Fisher Fishing Reports



*Native Pocono Mountains Brook Trout, caught by Pat Damico with one of Terry Kirkpatrick's bamboo rods*

### ***Fly Fishing the Poconos***

By Capt. Pat Damico

Our northern transplants can really relate to this as many of us grew up fishing these streams that have changed very little. I caught and released about 30 one morning on dry flies. Brook trout are the only native trout to the US. Trout fly fishing in this country started with bamboo rods and brook trout."

Below: Class A trout stream, Pocono Mountains, Luzerne County, PA. Google PA Fish and Boat Commission, and check out Class A trout streams. There are many. Native Brook trout have survived everything. Hope we don't destroy their habitat with current energy needs.



*Environmentally sensitive Class A trout stream in Marcellas Shale area of Upstate PA*



***Karen Warfel – Everglades Canal bluegill.*** Rick Warfel reports that Karen caught this nice bluegill on the 5-wt that she bid on and won at the club's Hog Roast silent auction.



***Betty Massey - Everglades canal system Mayan cichlid.*** Stephen and Betty Massey have fished the Everglades canal system and done well with the Chernobyl Ant and a very durable Boogle Bug. It has a body of molded foam, covered with epoxy with a marabou tail, hackle, rubber legs and a weed guard.

*Next, SFF'ers join Jacksonville fly fishers on the St. Johns River>>>>>*

# Suncoast Fly Fisher Fishing Reports

## ***Outing/Fish Fry on the St. Johns***

*By Ken Hofmeister*

Two members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers – Ken Doty and Ken Hofmeister -- joined Jacksonville's First Coast Fly Fishers club in May for a club outing/fish fry on the St. Johns River.

Invitations came from First Coasters John Adams and Bill Lott who joined our club members on our annual Everglades Canal excursion in April.

First Coasters fly fished the St. Johns River in the morning and docked at Bill and Ann Lott's place for the fish fry with all the trimmings. Featured fish were bluegill, black bass, striped bass, redfish, and freshwater catfish. The food was superb. Over 75 guests enjoyed it immensely.

Captaining his pontoon boat, John dropped fly fishers off along the river at bluegilly-looking spots. The Dotys and Hofmeisters were there to enjoy the event. Wind blew hard that morning but we did catch a few nice fish that evening.

Hey, SFF could have a fish fry like this IF... 1. We could catch fish like John Adams and Bill Lott... 2. We could cook them like Bill's and Ann's crew...3. Our supporting cast would supply the trimmings... 4. We could catch shrimp for the shrimp grits.

I'm just saying.



*A good time was had by all thanks to First Coast Fly Fishers and, especially, John and Sherry Adams and Bill and Ann Lott.*



*Ken Hofmeister with a St. Johns River bream*



*Ken Doty and one his several St. Johns bluegills. Thanks for the memories.*

*Tarpoon Moon in June, Baby. Next>>>>>*

## It's Tarpon Time



## Baby

Tarpon are back in the St. Pete-Clearwater area – beaches, bridges and passes. Last summer two of the best fly guides in the biz, Captains Nick Angelo and Bryon Chamberlin, gave Suncoast Fly Fishers an amazing how-to seminar based on their own school of hard knocks. Here are excerpts from the Bill AuCoin article in the July 2011 issue of *On The Fly*.

### Ready Set Go

1. Chamberlin's 12-weight Loomis is a one-piece. "My boat is my rod tube," he said. He likes the natural arc of a one-piece. The rod carried a large-arbor Nautilus CCF reel loaded with floating line.
2. Chamberlin favors floating line 99 percent. "We're sight fishing to tarpon and I want to see the fly line at all times," he said. He builds a 10-14 foot leader, but not to IGFA record specs. The shock leader connects to 20-pound class tippet. "If something is going to break, I want it to be the tippet. I want to keep my \$80 fly line and 300 yards of braided backing. He sets the drag to lift about 5 pounds.
3. Angelo passed around his box of ties mostly featuring maribou and rabbit tails on 1/0 to 3/0 hooks. "It's a teasing game," he said. What colors work best? Late season tarpon seem to favor black and purple.
4. Practice. Check your tackle. Tie extra leaders. Stretch the fly line. Lay out your fly line on the deck or stripping basket. Adjust the reel drag.
5. **Here they come. Try not to make more than one false cast. Spooking the school is a no-no. Don't cast to the wrong fish. Keep the pod "happy" or they'll move away from you and probably won't be anxious to eat for anybody else either.**
6. Your decision about which tarpon to target depends on which one will be most likely to see and follow your fly. Keep your hand on the shooting line and pinch it so the fly drops, softly, exactly where you want it to drop.
7. Get tight to the fly. You want your fly there in time to sink almost to the level of the traveling fish. Tarpon will look up to it, but not much.
8. You want the tarpon to think his meal is swimming away. Tease the tarpon like you would tease a cat, like you were playing keep-away.
9. If a tarpon does take the fly don't set the hook immediately. Wait until she turns, then yank hard. Yank again. She's off to Mexico. Watch for tangles. Be sure to let the loose line flow through the thumb and index finger circle on your line hand. *Carefully steer the last few feet of loose line to the reel. You do not want it to wrap around the handle.*
10. **Bow to the king. Especially, bow to the queen. She's bigger.**
11. Use your body to win this fight. Sometimes you'll rock back. Sometimes, you'll lean forward. Use your legs. Save your arms.
12. The hardest part often is when you finally get the tarpon close to the boat and he/she decides to depart again for Mexico. Pull her straight back and down. *Do not let the tarpon gulp air.*
13. Wear gloves. Grip the shock leader, not the class tippet. With the other hand grip the lower jaw. Now unhook the fly with your free hand and quickly grip the other jaw. Be prepared for headshakes.
14. Get pictures, of course. Then revive the fish. Hold it facing toward the front of the boat and move ahead with the trolling motor so fresh water flows over its gills. When the tarpon tries to pull away, let it go. She'll take a piece of your heart with her.

Contact Capt. Nick Angelo, (813) 230-8473

[fishonthefly24@aol.com](mailto:fishonthefly24@aol.com)

[www.shallowwaterflyfishing.com](http://www.shallowwaterflyfishing.com).



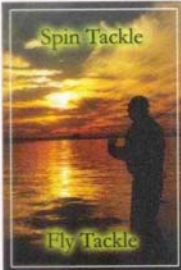
Contact Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, (813) 561-8801

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# Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



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## Our Favorite Guides

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Capt. Dan Bumgarner, Tampa Bay 727-526-7565  
Capt. Frank Bourgeois, Offshore Hernando County  
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Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, Tampa Bay 813-361-8801  
Capt. Craig Crumbliss, Central Florida freshwater,  
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Capt. Dave Chouinard, Tampa Bay 732-610-9700  
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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

## Member Website Recommendations

### From Paul Sequira...

Sad to say I just learned that Florida Wildlife magazine is no longer being published in printed form. The good news is that it is available online.

**Florida Wildlife Magazine**  
[Myfwc.com/magazine](http://Myfwc.com/magazine)

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### From Steve Putbrese...

The Snook Foundation was established in 1998 with a vision to serve as a platform for anglers and conservationist to preserve, protect, and enhance snook and other gamefish populations. If interested you can become a friend and join free receiving a newsletter and have access to member-only areas or you can become a full member by paying a small yearly fee. The website has lots of information about snook and other gamefish including news articles, pictures/videos, angler regulations, snook gear shop, and a list of fishing guides.

**Snook and Gamefish Foundation**  
[www.snookfoundation.org](http://www.snookfoundation.org)

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Members, got a good fishing website you want to share with other Suncoast Fly Fishers? Email Bill AuCoin, [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net)  
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## Link to our favorite websites

[Suncoastflyfishers.com](http://Suncoastflyfishers.com)  
[FloridaSportsman.com](http://FloridaSportsman.com)  
[FlyFishinSalt.com](http://FlyFishinSalt.com)  
[SaltwaterSportsman.com](http://SaltwaterSportsman.com)  
[CatchMagazine.net](http://CatchMagazine.net)  
[AnglingTrade.com](http://AnglingTrade.com)  
[CaptPat.com](http://CaptPat.com)  
[Earthnc.com/online-nautical-charts](http://Earthnc.com/online-nautical-charts)  
[SaltwaterTides.com](http://SaltwaterTides.com)

## Fly Over

*Here-there-and-everywhere in the world of fly fishing*

FREE: Sign-up for FFF's E-News, delivered monthly by email

1. Go to FFF website:  
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>
2. Click on the blue icon where it says "Click to Sign up for our Newsletter"
3. You'll be asked to fill in the blanks—email address, first name, last name.
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NEW MEMBER BONUS. New members receive a free copy of *Wading the Saltwater Flats and Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench*, a classic how-to by a student and teacher of our fishing specialty by much-missed deceased club member Don Coleman. Didn't get one? Check with Tom Hummel at the raffle table for your copy.

JOIN SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS. Print the application. It's on the Suncoast Fly Fishers Website. [Click here](#). Annual memberships are \$15, \$25 (family) and \$100 (Business). You'll also be required to join the National Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) and you will receive FFF's magazine, *Flyfisher* and newsletter delivered by email.

FREE SWAP AND SHOP ADS. Got some fly gear you want to sell or swap? Advertise it for free for two months in *On The Fly*. Send your notice to *On The Fly*, [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net), Fax 727-521-203, 5253 Dover St. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703.

FREE TARPONGENETICS KIT. Collect, store and submit tarpon DNA samples for the statewide Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study. You'll be scraping the 'poons outer jaw with a small pad to capture some skin cells. This is the program managed by Dr. Kathy Guindon who spoke to Suncoast Fly Fishers in 2009. For more information go [here](#).

RUINING OUR GOOD NAME? Looks like somebody could be abusing the good name of our newsletter, *On The Fly*. Angling Trade magazine reports that some individual(s) are pretending to be with fly-fishing magazines so they can promote free fly rods for product reviews. The titles in question include, yep, ours. Go [here](#) for the article.

FREE: Scan the image on the right to watch a video on your phone of a Suncoast Fly Fisher catching a 200-pound tarpon on a fly rod just 100 yards or so from the Anclote Key beach near Tarpon Springs..

Not.

