

On The Fly

May 2012 Volume 22, Issue 5

The Prez Sez



Tom Gadacz, President

PAUL SEQUIRA

Paul Sequira, who has been the editor of our newsletter -- *On The Fly* -- is turning over this responsibility to Bill AuCoin. Paul has edited the newsletter since 2006, inheriting the responsibility from Charlie Most. The design and current organization of the newsletter has evolved over the years and each editor has made improvements. The newsletter has always been the highlight of our fly fishing club. Paul combined a wealth of fly fishing knowledge and experience with remarkable editorial and publishing skills.

This has resulted in a SFF newsletter that has more pertinent information on fly fishing in the Tampa Bay area than any other publication. Our members are kept up to date on club events. Fishing tips are yours for the reading. Tips to improve your casting abilities are in most issues. The current fly of the month is described and other flies are listed to make sure you have the best chance of catching fish. If you can't make an outing or program you can read about the fun you missed. If you missed lunch, sorry but we do not do meals on wheels. You have to show up. Members share their fly fishing adventures and knowledge. The outreach and community programs we do

are promoted in the newsletter. We are fortunate to have so many of you who contribute your fly fishing knowledge. We indeed are most fortunate that Paul put it all together to make a fantastic fly fishing newsletter. Paul moved us from "snail mail" to e-mail distribution—saving money and greatly expanding what we could offer.

I have especially appreciated Paul. Writing a column every month is fun but sometimes what I am thinking and what I type may get out of synch. Paul will give me a call or send me an e-mail to make sure I get it right. This is the true mark of an editor with awesome attention to detail.

Paul has given us a very sophisticated publication that has everything any fly fisher might want to know about fishing in our area. It has great pictures of events, flies, and celebrations. If you want to know the officers and board members, they are listed. Need a fishing guide, guess what? Several are listed. If you want to know the aims and purpose of our club, these are listed as well. There is more in the newsletter than most of us appreciate. All members receive this publication and it is also sent to many others who have requested it. This includes some of the who's-who in fly-fishing to clubs in other countries. Paul has established national and international prestige for our *On The Fly*. Federation of Fly Fishing national publication often runs copy from *On The Fly*.

Paul, we thank you for an excellent job and all the work you have done—especially over the last six years as editor of *On The Fly*.

Paul Sequira's note, next page>>>

Paul Sequira. Time for a change



Paul Sequira, Editor Emeritus, On The Fly,

Nothing lasts forever, and so it is with my time as the editor of our Club newsletter, *On The Fly*. Six years is a long time for anyone to do the same job and I think it is time for me to move on and let someone else take over. As many of you know, I have been plagued with some very serious health issues for the last nine months. Frankly, I need a break from some of my activities and the newsletter is one of those activities that take a lot of time and effort.

I have enjoyed producing *On The Fly* these last six years and I want you to know that I appreciate all of the compliments and kind words you have had for my efforts. It has been fun for me and I hope that it fulfilled all of your desires as to what our newsletter should be. I feel that communication between the members and officers & directors is the most important part of the newsletter and I hope I provided that for you. Secondly, I tried to provide articles that would be both educational and entertaining in the various fly fishing and club activities in an attractive format. Lastly, I wanted to produce a newsletter that would stand out among the ordinary ones and be something that the club would be proud of. From the feedback I have received over the years, I think I accomplished those goals.

I didn't do this alone; the articles contributed by you, the members, are what made our newsletter as good as it was. Regular monthly columns provided by former and current presidents Ken Hofmeister and Tom Gadacz and former and current outings chairmen Richard Oldenski and Alan Sewell kept us all informed of SFF's important

activities. Member Pat Damico generously shared his excellent articles and his monthly Casting Tips column. A collection of Pat's articles is a wealth of fly fishing instruction and information and now they all are available to all of us on our website. Bill AuCoin articles covered many of our guest speakers' presentations and made it available to members who perhaps couldn't attend the meeting or to provide a written record that we can all go back to refresh our memory or clarify something we may have missed during the presentation. The many photographs and other articles written and contributed by various members – too many to mention – all contributed to make a newsletter that we could all enjoy and be proud of. Thank you, each and every one of you. You made my job so much easier and more enjoyable. Without all of you, our newsletter would have been dull and boring.

So now we have a new editor, Bill AuCoin. Bill will do an excellent job, I have complete confidence in him and I know that if you give Bill all the support and encouragement that you gave me over the years, he will produce an even better newsletter than the one we have been accustomed to these last few years.

My best to all of you. It's been fun.

Paul Sequira

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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News 'n Notes

Welcome, New SFF Members

Jim Bandhauer
216 20th Avenue SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
727-776-3652

Johnny Boyer
2513 W Watrous Ave
Tampa, FL 33625
813-254-9500 (work)

Swab 'poon jaws for science

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) reports that anglers have swabbed the cheeks of more than 9,000 tarpon to collect DNA. The still new research initiative will help the FWRI determine recapture rates, health, migration, and movements of individual fish.

The program is headed by Dr. Kathryn Guindon who spoke to Suncoast Fly Fishers in September of 2009. At that time about 3,000 DNA samples had been collected.

FWRI provides a free tarpon DNA collection kit with a small abrasive sponge for swabbing the outer jaw of the tarpon. The kits have no expiration date. No refrigeration is required. All you have to do is fill out and return the info and sample to an FWRI collection station.

Email

<mailto:tarpongenetics@myfwc.com> or phone 1-800-367-4461. Also, watch the online video showing how to swab tarpon cheeks for DNA.
<http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/tarpon/genetics/video>

MAY 17 MEETING VOTE

Our club has been offered an opportunity to play a major role in the newly announced Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum. Members of the SFF Board Of Directors will explain the proposal and ask for member support at the May 17 meeting. Please read the full text of the board's proposal on page 4.

May 17 Meeting Fly Swap

The first club "fly swap" begins this month. Sixteen members signed up during our April meeting to participate in this swap. The members who signed up will swap three of their saltwater flies for three saltwater flies tied by others. Flies are to be turned in to Myron Hansen at the beginning of the meeting. After the evening program names of the 16 participants will be drawn, one at a time. When a name is called, that person will come forward to select three flies.

DID YOU MISS THE CHANCE TO BE PART OF THE MAY FLY SWAP? READ ON... The next swap will take place in July. It will be a freshwater fly swap and members will be able to sign up at the June meeting.

Free: Clearwater Harbor Boaters Guide

Tampa Bay Estuary Program has updated its *Boater's Guide to Clearwater Harbor and St. Joseph Sound*. This superb guide is great for fly fishers, too, because it shows seagrass beds and water depths.

It's free for the asking. Some will be available at the May meeting. Or, you can email <mailto:colleen@TBEP.org> You can also download it from the Internet at <http://www.tbep.org/>

Fishing Center Proposal follows>>>>

Members, please read and consider this recommendation from the board of directors. This important matter will be voted at the May 17 meeting.

**FLORIDA GULF COAST CENTER FOR FISHING
AND INTERACTIVE MUSEUM
SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS BOARD RECOMMENDATION**

May 5, 2012

PURPOSE: To recommend that SFF participate in the Center for Fishing's programs and museum display. Members will vote on this recommendation at the regular May meeting.

IMPORTANCE: By collaborating with the Center for Fishing, SFF can advance its vision of being Florida's leading fly-fishing club and further its Aims and Purpose. Working in concert with the Center for Fishing gives us an opportunity to introduce fly-fishing to youth through classes and presentations to over 100 fishing clubs in Pinellas County Schools.

Assuming responsibility for the museum's display of fly-fishing history with an emphasis on Pinellas County, gives SFF the opportunity to educate the public and to recruit interested fly fishers.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend that SFF pursue a relationship with the Center that would include:

1. Assuming responsibility for staffing fly fishing instruction in a four-session course offered in Center's classrooms (two classrooms with capacity for thirty students in each).
2. Provide program presenters as requested to speak to fishing clubs in Pinellas County Schools.
3. Assume responsibility for a wall display of the history of fly-fishing in Pinellas County.

REQUIREMENTS:

We would envision a coordinator of SFF activities with the Center. Working with this coordinator would be the following chairpersons: Historical Display, Education, and School Programs. Coordinator would recruit and recommend SFF chairpersons and report to SFF Board on plans and progress. Chairpersons would coordinate SFF members in support of their respective responsibilities. We would request support and assistance from Federation of Fly Fishers.

We are under no financial obligation. Center's insurance would cover our involvement.

Submitted by Ken Hofmeister, Secretary, Suncoast Fly Fishers

Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews



May 5, Downtown St. Pete

This was supposed to be our April outing but strong winds and heavy rain caused the Club to move the outing to this weekend. Notices were sent to our members and we hope you made this event. We fished our Urban Outing this past weekend on the flats of downtown St. Petersburg. This was a really outstanding trip on the most beautiful shorelines of Tampa Bay. Light westerly winds, pleasant temperature and plenty of fish. Our lunch was the frozen leftovers from our Pig Picking. Hot lunch and fish made this another F.F.F. (FUN, FOOD, AND FRIENDS). Largest trout was caught by Mark Hays --a nice 18.5-inch trout.



Rick Tripolino: Mack's on the line

SFF Tournament

Update -- 2012 - 2013

Bass - open

Snook - open

Trout - Mark Hays - 18.5 inches

Redfish - open

Sunfish - open

Other Fish - open

Alan says, "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."



Only 12-inches. Definitely not a winner

May 19, Emerson Point

Our May outing will be at Emerson Point, in Bradenton. This area is a great spot to fish. You have the Manatee River, Rattlesnake flats and all of the south side of Tampa that can be reached from the Point. You can wade in and fish or slide in a kayak or canoe. Larger boats can be launched nearby. Lunch will be served at 11.00 am at the last shelter on the main road.

Outings Preview

June 16th, 2012 -- Dock light fishing

July 21, 2012 -- Float fish the Hillsborough

Everglades Canal Fishing Report

On the weekend of April 27-29 members Suncoast Fly Fishers, joined by some from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Jacksonville's First Coast Fly Fishers, drove south to fish the Everglades canals. Following are reports and pictures from three club members.

The First Liar Didn't Stand a Chance!

Story and photos by Ken Hofmeister

The Suncoast Fly Fishers crowd gathered at Lester's Restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale Friday evening to replay the fishing exploits of the afternoon and to plan the attack on the bluegill and bass the next day. Guests and innocent by-standers were amazed at the laughter and kidding that usually accompanies such events.

A room was set aside for us, and the food was plentiful and good. What set this crowd apart was that there was no formal "contest" or "competition" or "award ceremony." Instead, there was a lot of good-natured banter about the "one that got away." Since we had visiting guests and members of the Tampa Bay Club with us, this was a good thing.

Questions and Answers:

Where were you fishing? Most fished the canals off I-75 or highway 27. Ken Doty and Woody Miller fished the Holey Land and caught the only Cichlids. People changed locations since none of the spots were particularly hot in comparison to experiences of previous years.

What fly did you use? Answers to this question included: spiders, beetles, poppers, droppers, dragons, streamers, Clousers, muddlers, and a host of other flies.

What flies worked best? Alan liked small spiders with white legs, Ken liked his spider, Mark Hays showed a muddler with a broken hook (big bass). David Putnam preferred a popper with feathers and legs. Bill Lott, fishing with John Adams, used a small dropper with legs to catch a couple of Oscars. Mark Craig did very well with a small popper.

What do you think the weather is going to do? Rain and wind will prevail. And that was the truth! Most of

us left Saturday around noon. Mark Hays and Tom waited out a two-hour rain and went on to catch bass and bluegill.

What didn't happen: Nobody fell overboard. Gators didn't bite Trukenbrod. No visits to Emergency Room to remove hooks. No boats sunk. Neither Joe Dail nor Tom Gadacz provoked the Pythons. Lightning didn't strike any liars from our club.



Mark and John Craig signaled they have caught three bass. Nice bass, it turns out.



Bill Lott of the First Coast Fly Fishers in Jacksonville caught a couple of nice exotic Oscars with a dropper rig. He fished with John Adams.

More Everglades coverage follows>>>>>>

Everglades Canal Fishing Report

Rain falls. Water rises. Where was Don?

By Mark Hays

What do the Suncoast Fly Fishers have in common with a certain character in "The Wizard of Oz"? It seems they all melt when they get wet.

The long weekend started off fine; breezy, overcast and a few hungry fish. The usual crowd showed up for dinner plus a few new faces, which are always welcome.

Sometime between a great Friday dinner at Lester's and 7:00 a.m. Saturday the heavens opened up and most of the Club scattered like snook in an angler's shadow.

Saturday actually was a great day on the water except for a 2-hour rain delay at noon, which was spent eating Mrs. Hofmeister's cake. I can honestly say that my guest, Tom, and I, have never caught more large (over 8") bluegills ever before. We also managed 6 nice bass each after lunch.

Sunday was not as good as it never stopped raining. All kidding aside, the weekend with old friends, new members, and Tampa Club and Jacksonville Club members was worth getting wet. I just hope someone in our club learns how to monitor the water levels in the canals so that we have lower levels as this greatly improves the fishing.

One more thing – we missed you Don. The hotel staff needs your fire to get breakfast rolling earlier.



Bright spot on a cloudy day. Tom Legler poses with an Everglades canal bass



Ken Doty, Tom Trukenbrod and Woody Miller swap war stories on a rainy weekend



Well, it's one less gator available to steal your fish.

Photos by Mark Hays and Ken Hofmeister

More Everglades Canal coverage>>>>



Before the deluge. Dinner at Lester's

Everglades Canal Fishing Report

The Everglades: April is cruel

By Tom Gadacz

April is the month for the SFF excursion to the Florida Everglades. We had a meeting to discuss how to fish, what to fish and where to fish. Loaded with all this advice a group of 26 or so members journeyed down US 75 and across Alligator Alley to Sunrise, our base camp. Several ventured down on Thursday and began “exploratory” fishing. That is a term for finding the best spots and being able to claim 100+ catches on our typical opening day Saturday. Friday evening we usually get together for dinner; same for Saturday. After a little fishing on Sunday morning with the Lord, we head home with memories of hundreds of catches. But for some of us it was a little different this year. We did not know that a storm was predicted for Sunday evening.

The Everglades was a long ride for a short slide (little fishing), at least for three of us. I rode down with Joe and Martha Dail and had a very pleasant trip stopping for lunch. We had a great time Friday evening getting together for dinner with the guys and planning our outing on Saturday.

The “exploratory” fishermen shared their hot spots with us and tactics were discussed. At 6:00 a.m. everyone was at breakfast but it started to rain. By 8:00 am it was pouring with high winds (40 mph). The front moved in faster than expected and the morning forecast called for continued rain and worsening wind and rain on Sunday. Most decided to pack and leave.

We went from plan A to B to C and finally checked out and planned to fish the ramps on the return drive. Mark Hays, John and Mark Craig and a few more stayed and caught some fish. Apparently the rain did take a break. They visited the IGFA museum and thought it was great. We fished at each ramp but the rain caught up with us before any fish would strike. We had a pleasant lunch and returned to sunny St. Pete to watch the Rays win.

If anyone wishes to visit the International Game Fish Association Museum, it is located at 300 Gulf Stream Way in Dania Beach, FL next to Bass Pro Shop - Outdoor World.



As Joe Dail demonstrates, sometimes a fly angler comes up empty.

Tom Gadacz photo



“What is a healthy choice?” asked Woody Miller.

Ken Hofmeister photo

ReadySetGo

Dock Lights are Getting Hot

By Capt. Pat Damico, MCI



Capt. Pat Damico and a "Mean Old Snook" caught on a lighted dock

Warmer water has snook moving out of deep canals and rivers and starting to forage on baitfish in the shallows. Since they are primarily nocturnal feeders, lighted docks are getting a lot of their attention.

I will gladly admit my favorite fly rod quarry is a mean Old Snook. Daytime snook fishing with a long rod is hard work. Yes, there are many areas where numbers of small Snook can be tempted during the day, especially during the first and last hours and under low light conditions. If you want to get really rattled and have your tackle tested, fish in the dark. One of my fishing buddies, Bob Finck, told me years ago, after a Snookin' good trip, "Pat, they're like largemouth bass on steroids."

If you've never pursued snook at night, where do you begin? I use a flats boat that is equipped with a bow mounted Minn Kota electric motor. Preferring not to anchor, I can maneuver the boat, even when fishing alone, to get me in the best position. The electric will also be used as soon as you hookup, to get you and your lunker away from barnacle encrusted structure. Use your electric in forward

mode only and turn it one hundred and eighty degrees to go in the opposite direction. Reverse prop wash seems to disturb fish because of the excess vibration. A slow steady speed will not scare fish like sudden stopping and starting. Dock lights will be the areas where I will do most of my fishing. These lights attract plankton, which in turn attract hordes of baitfish that are easy pickings for large, lazy snook. Some bridges have lights on the fenders and lighted Marinas will also attract fish, but I prefer to concentrate on lighted docks. Check out the areas you want to fish during the day so you are familiar with water depth and any navigational hazards. Pick an area where there are a lot of lights mounted close to the water. This way, you can just use your electric to go from one to the next. After a hookup, a light will frequently not produce for a while. Move to the next one and return later. Running and gunning at night is not a good idea. This time of year, docks near passes and points adjacent to deeper water will harbor more fish. As the water temperature drops, docks back in canals where water is warmer will be more productive.

Are tides important? Is incoming preferred over outgoing? The most important consideration is to have moving water. If the tide is slack, the fish will be there milling around and not feeding. Pick times when there is maximum tidal flow. The current will orient the fish. As they face into the current waiting for their food, they may be positioned away from the dock with one tide and under the dock when it reverses.

Tackle will depend on the size of fish available. Two fly rods -- one with a floating and the second with a clear sink tip -- would be ideal. Nine-foot, fast-action rods in eight or nine weight should be equipped with thirty-pound fluorocarbon shock tippets.

Continued on next page>>>

Continued...

Damico: Dock Lights are Hot,

A nine-foot tapered leader on the floating line is perfect. The sink tip can have a three or four-foot shock tippet only since the clear line is almost invisible.

Observing feeding fish will tell you what flies to select. Snook will be very selective. If they are feeding on glass minnows, larger offerings will be refused. When a small grass shrimp skips under the light in a panic followed by a series of explosive boils, use a small shrimp pattern. Duplicate the movement of the forage with your retrieve. Keep the rod tip close to the water and strip strike when you feel the take, then get the fish away from the structure. Crimp the barbs on flies, it will make release easier and help penetration. Besides shrimp and baitfish patterns that sink, I always have a few floating patterns; nothing beats the excitement of a large Snook exploding the surface. The newer synthetic materials are very effective. Polarfiber Minnows, Dan's Neerly Live Bait, Lefty's Deceiver and Clouser Minnows are all good choices for sub surface. Jack Garside's Gurgle Bug and small Poppers will work on top.

Your boat should be well organized and everything unnecessary should be stowed. Daytime problems will quadruple at night. Tripping, catching line, not finding things, can be frustrating. Stealth is the key. Noise should be eliminated.

I wear a small "LEDHEDZ" light on my hat brim that uses small button type batteries and weighs almost nothing. It can be turned on to change and locate flies or assist in bringing a fish alongside for release.

Trolling motor props eat fly line

Rick Grasset, a Sarasota guide, introduced me to a homemade stripping basket that can be placed on the deck and is a clever, inexpensive way to eliminate all the problems associated with fly line control. When not used, it is very compact and easily stored. Contact me if interested in a description of how to make this inexpensive tool. Besides catching fish, this tip alone was worth the trip with Rick.

Remember, you are fishing in someone's back yard. I make it a policy to thank dock owners when they are around during the day, for the privilege of fishing their dock at night. Not only will this surprise them, I have been given some great other fishing locations nearby.

If your fly-fishing luck with daytime snook has been frustrating, give night fishing a try. Your catching rate should accelerate. When you see the size and numbers of fish after dark, and how much fun you've missed, you'll see why this has become my favorite.

Snook numbers are generally down. Trout and reds will respond very well to these techniques.

Crimp your barbs and handle all fish very carefully.



Fish areas with lots of lights mounted close to the water. Thank owners if you see them.

Tying Bench – Layne Smith's Pine Cone Fly



It's a leech, it's a worm. It's Smitty's Pine Cone Fly

Smitty writes,

"The Pine Cone fly is fished as a worm or a leech or even as a baitfish. For a worm I'd make the tail about twice as long as the leech. You just want to work this fly to swim like what you want it to be. A leech undulates in the water so just work the fly so it draws up then sinks up and down so that it moves like a leech would. If it's a baitfish imitation, strip it back in short strips like a minnow. It works in saltwater, too; just change the hook to a saltwater hook. In a larger size the Pine Cone fly makes a great redfish fly. For that I'd probably go with rabbit zonker instead of pine squirrel zonker. Rabbit zonker hair is longer so it presents a larger profile. This fly will even imitate a shrimp."

Materials

Hook: Mustad 3366 size 6 or 8
Thread: Flat waxed nylon to match squirrel
Weight: .15 - .25 lead wire
Tail: Pine Squirrel zonker strip
Body: Pine Squirrel zonker strip
Head: X-small brass cone (color your choice; ie Gold, Copper, Black)

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Slide cone onto hook up to hook eye.

Step 2: Wrap 8 to 10 wraps of lead wire on hook shank and press forward into cone cavity.

Overwrap lead with tying thread. This will give fly a little more weight as well as help secure the cone in place better.

Step 3: Tie in a piece of pine squirrel (about 1 1/2 times shank length) at a point above hook barb and post with about 10 wraps of tying thread. This will raise the tail slightly and make it a little more active as it is stripped (it also helps to keep it from wrapping around hook point).

Step 4: Tie in pine squirrel strip then wrap thread forward to right behind cone. Palmer fur strip toward hook eye. Make sure your wraps DO NOT overlap; that they lay side by side as you palmer forward. ****IMPORTANT**** Make sure you stroke back fur on each and every wrap so fur will lie toward rear of hook.

Step 5: Make an extra wrap once you reach cone and allow it to fill in cone cavity. Tie off squirrel strip; cut off excess then whip finish.

NOTE: If you want to add a little extra flash, add a collar of "ice dub" in a color to complement pine squirrel before you whip finish.

Pat's Fly Casting Clinic

Slack can be good

By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Tip #30 Several of our tips dealt with how to keep one of our casting essentials – slack -- to a minimum. Are there times when we want to introduce slack in a cast? Yes!

One of the most useful casts when fishing a floating fly, especially in freshwater, is a reach cast. Finicky trout will shun a fly that is not drifting naturally. For instance, to increase the length of your drag free drift after you have made the cast, stopping the rod, move your rod in an upstream sweep as you slip line. When the fly lands on the water, your rod is pointed upstream. As the fly drifts toward the rising trout, move the rod in a downstream direction following the fly. A drag free drift will dramatically increase your catching success rate.

[Note: Capt. Pat Damico holds two free fly casting clinics a year for Suncoast Fly Fishers. Next clinic? November.]

New member Jim Bandhauer likes Pat's Casting Clinics

Was the material presented well, explained and demonstrated? *Yes. I really appreciate Pat's style*

What was the purpose of your coming? Was that fulfilled? *I was completely frustrated trying to fly fish. I met Tom Jones at the "Y" and he told me about SFF and your training class. I had watched videos and could never get the line out of my pole, 15-20 feet at the most. I had it out over 40-feet by noon. Thanks to Pat.*

What do you consider your experience level? Did you get enough personal instruction? *Absolute beginner – can't even tie the knots. I couldn't believe the attention I got – World Class. I can't stop bragging about the experience.*

Were you relaxed? Was there any apprehension? If initially, did it improve?



Capt. Pat Damico (right) with a happy client and a not so happy snook.

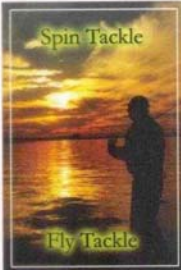
Slacker!

Yes. No apprehension after we got going. You guys really did a fine job. *I NEVER felt put down or uncomfortable.*

Any suggestions for the future? *Maybe more fruit and veggies for lunch. As far as the class – no – I loved it and enclose my application for membership to prove it.*

Would you attend another? Would you recommend it to a friend? *I'll be at every event I can – may bring my adult daughter next time.*

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



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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

Our favorite websites

- <http://suncoastflyfishers.com/>
- <http://myfwc.com/>
- <http://www.floridasportsman.com/>
- <http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/>
- <http://www.saltwatersportsman.com/>
- <http://catchmagazine.net/>
- <http://www.anglingtrade.com/magazine/>
- <http://www.captpat.com/>
- <http://earthnc.com/online-nautical-charts>
- <http://saltwatertides.com/>

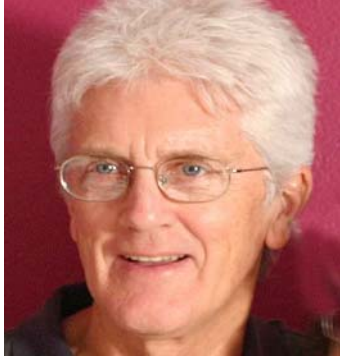
Got a good fishing website you want to share with other Suncoast Fly Fishers?

Email Bill AuCoin,

<mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net>

Tom Jones' Tip of the Month

Wanna catch fish? Then keep a log. Tom will give you one.



By Tom Jones

[Tom makes a generous offer below. If you want a log like his, just ask. It'll even have your own name and phone number on it tomstpete@ij.net; phone 727-667-4112]

I've been wanting to start keeping a fishing log for several years but just kept on procrastinating. This year, though, I happened upon a sample log page layout on the Internet that left me with no excuse. I downloaded it, copied it, and started recording my fishing experiences.

I figured it would take a couple of years of record keeping for it to actually pay dividends in better fishing. But, already, I find myself recording experiences that have surprised me and that I know I'll be reviewing next year at about the same time. For example: on the way back to the boat launch after a disappointing outing one evening, just for the fun of it, I decided to cast a

fly at a lighted dock. I knew that probably wouldn't work, but, since the water temperature was higher than normal for that time of the year, I did it anyway, just to experiment. I was surprised to catch a couple of slightly undersize trout which encouraged me to start dock fishing early this year and I've been on a roll ever since.

Now, having recorded the water temperature, the air temperature, the direction of the tide, the moon phase, the wind speed and direction, the location, fly, type of line, retrieve style and speed, etc. next year, I'll be able to look back and see what conditions caused the trout action to start early in the year and what method I used to catch them.

It should be said, too, that there are electronic options for keeping track of your fishing in a searchable database, either on-line or on your computer, iPhone, etc., which may appeal to some of you. A Google search will find you knee deep in choices in a heart beat.

Recently, I've designed my own fishing log page which I like much better than the one I had copied from the Internet. It is easy to customize for anyone else, changing anything you want. I'll be happy to send you a pdf file of your personalized fishing log. You can print out as many pages as you like, three-hole punch them, and put them in a binder.

 **Tom's Fishin' Log** 

727-667-4112

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------|
| Date | | Hours fished | | |
| Day of week | | Best hours | | |
| Fishing buddy | | Where fished | | |
| Weather AM: | | PM: | | |
| Wind AM: | | PM: | | |
| Air Temp | Water Temp | Clarity | Tide | |
| Barometer | Moon Phase | | | |
| CATCH | | | | |
| Species | Size Range | Number | Caught on. . . | Note |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

When Night Meets Day

By Tom Gadacz

Two weeks ago Tom Jones invited me to fish with him. He had a good time with Norm Sande the night before fishing the dock lights. They caught several trout and spotted some reds. Tom wanted to return for another try. I wanted to fish for pompano. So we agreed to fish the dock lights from 4:00 a.m. to sunrise and pompano beginning at daylight.

We launched at Maximo Park and needless to say had no problems putting in. If you want to avoid a normally crowded boat ramp 4:00 am is the best time. We headed for the docks just off the Bayway Bridge. The construction site for the new bridge was quiet. We fished an incoming tide using several different flies but the old Clouser was the winner. Although several of the big fish broke the surface water our best catches were with yellow and light brown and chartreuse and white Clousers. It netted us a legal-sized red fish and three legal sized speckled trout. The baitfish were abundant, and at daybreak we headed toward Shell Key. We jigged Clousers, crab patterns and a few other flies in 4 to 5 foot grassy areas near the drop-offs. We caught a small permit and ladyfish. We even caught a few pinfish. By this time we were fishing an outgoing tide and decided to call it a day for pompano. In six hours of fishing we combined some excellent dock light fishing with daytime fishing. The hunt for pompano will continue.

Practice for Perfection

By Ken Hofmeister



Jacksonville's Bill Lott. Fishing structure?

Pat Damico, FFF Master Casting Instructor, reminds casting students to practice what they learned. He gets rather specific and tells them to practice in their yards.

Sometimes he suggests casting along the driveway to improve accuracy. Bill Lott, member of Jacksonville's First Coast Fly Fishers, is a superb fly caster. He can also catch fish as his two Oscars from the Everglades will attest. Fishing with SFF member John Adams, Bill was preparing for a dock-light fishing excursion with Ken Hofmeister. Bill practiced casting his new fly off Ken's sea wall prior to the trip. Alas! The fly caught the roof (good practice for dock conditions). So Bill, with John's help and a ladder, went after the fly. It was worth it. Bill landed a few trout on this fly that night. However, he now had an excuse for every missed strike of the night. "Dull hook!" he would exclaim. He would then explain how the hook was dulled dragging on the tile roof. I just thought I had heard it all from SFF members. But it looks like we'll have to relinquish the BS title to Jacksonville.

Join the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Here's why.

Our Aims and Purpose

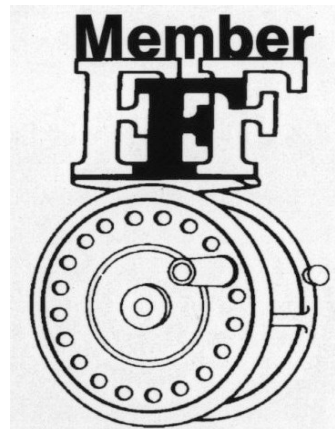
Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and saltwater. We shall promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly tying, rod building, fly casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship,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



Suncoast Fly Fishers support conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

**Memberships: Individual (\$15).
Family (\$25). Business (\$100)**

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. · Make new friends and find a fishing buddy for your next fishing adventure.



Free magazine and more. Since our club is a charter member of the National Federation of Fly Fishers, new members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers are automatically enrolled in the national organization, and receive FFF's magazine, *Flyfisher*, and FFF's E-News. Also For every 12 new members our club receives a Lefty Kreh TFO fly rod from FFF. In the second and succeeding years, annual membership with magazine subscription is \$35.

Visit <http://fedflyfishers.org/>

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 the specialty by much-missed deceased club member Don Coleman. Check with Tom Hummel at the raffle table for your copy.

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Club Officers

President: Tom Gadacz 727360-8030

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

Programs: Board of directors

Programs – Board of Directors

Visit your club's website

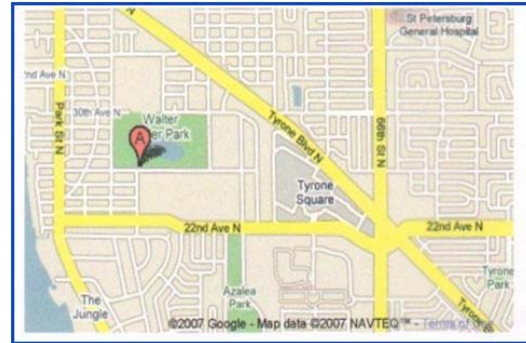
<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/>

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

7:00—8:00 pm – Meeting and program



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

SFF Club Calendar

May 17, SFF Club Meeting. Walter Fuller Park.

May 19 SFF Club Outing
Emerson Point, Manatee County

June 7 Board of Directors Meeting

June 21, SFF Club Meeting

June 23, SFF Outing, dock light fishing

September 8, Fly Casting Clinic with Pat Damico (MCI)

September 22-23, Florida Sportsman Show,
Tampa Fairgrounds

November 10. Marine Quest, Fish and Wildlife
Research Institute, St. Petersburg

Share your opinions, fishing tips and photos, ideas. Got something to sell or swap?

On the Fly is the monthly newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Email newsletter editor Bill AuCoin, <mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net>