

On The Fly

October 2012 Volume 22, Issue 10

Prez Sez, *By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers*



SFF Membership Renewal. Thanks to all who renewed your membership and if you have not renewed bring your renewal form and money/check to this month's meeting. If you cannot make the meeting please mail the form and your check. Thank you for your support and belonging to the best fly fishing club ever. As a reminder SFF is a Charter Club of FFF and we derive many benefits from FFF. You will be notified directly by FFF when your FFF membership renewal is due. Membership is mandatory in FFF since we are a Charter Club.

SFF Vision and Values Renewal. Several years ago we adopted a set of Vision and Values for our club. Now is a good time to also renew these while we are renewing our membership. Your support of this vision and these set of values is what makes us the best fly fishing club ever.

VISION

- To be the Florida's leading fly-fishing club
- Helping members have more fun fly-casting, fly-fishing, and fly-tying
- Gaining new knowledge and/or skill at every meeting and event.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Attract, develop, and retain a diverse group of members who enjoy fly-fishing.
- Increase membership satisfaction with club offerings.
- Effective communications to members, public, other clubs.
- Continually improve people, processes, and what we provide.

VALUES

MEETING MEMBER NEEDS. Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. will continuously seek to understand and meet the personal and practical needs of members. A key to attracting and retaining members is to meet or exceed their needs.

FRIENDLINESS. SFF strives to be a friendly, inclusive, and unpretentious group of fly-fishers who have fun learning and fishing together. New members will find themselves welcomed, respected, invited, and needed.

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT. We believe we can always improve the way we tie, cast, fish, and educate. We are committed to continually improving how we function as we benchmark with other groups. We solicit improvement ideas for our processes, services, and ourselves. We are committed to preserving our waters and marine resources. We keep searching for safer and more productive ways to enjoy our sport.

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We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

Monthly Meetings

Suncoast Fly Fishers meet 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



SFF Club Calendar

- October 18 meeting, Walter Fuller Park – Terry Kirkpatrick presentation; Charlie Most will tie flies.
- October 20, SFF hosts the Carl Hanson tournament on the Hillsborough River
- October 27, 10 am – 4 p.m. The SFF will have a fly tying table at Marine Quest. We need fly tiers to help teach kids how to tie their first fly. Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, St. Petersburg.
- November 15 meeting, Walter Fuller Park – Craig Crumbliss presentation and fly tying.
- November 17 Outing – Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing tournament at Bradenton Yacht Club. Volunteers needed. Contact Capt. Pat Damico.
- Hog Roast, March 23, 2013.

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/>

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

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

Newsletter/Publicity – Bill AuCoin



Jim Day and attentive students at Marine Quest 2011.

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n Notes



Welcome home, Pat Hodges. Alan Sewell reports that military veteran Pat Hodges from our Bay Pines VA Center has returned from a successful fishing expedition and received first class Orvis gear for fishing at the beautiful Blue Valley Ranch in Kremmling, Colorado. Under the direction of SFF's Alan Sewell, Hodges won first place in Project Healing Waters fly rod-building contest.

Hodges, left, with her winning fly rod

Fly-fishing 101 goes on the road

Richard Oldenski reports that Pinellas Park High School (at 6305 188th Avenue N) has invited our Suncoast Fly Fishers' instructors to present the new *SFF School Fishing Club Program* to its fishing club on October 24. Instructors should get there at 12:30 to set up. The session starts at 12:50 p.m. and runs for an hour. About 30 students usually attend. After the brief introduction the students will break into two groups of 15. One group goes outside for fly-casting instruction. The other stays in class for fly tying. After 20 minutes the students switch assignments. Objectives are to let students see how flies are tied and feel what casting a fly rod is like. If you can help with this program please contact Richard Oldenski at the October meeting, call him at 727-345-8938 or email him at roldenski@gmail.com

My Magic Wand, Ken Hofmeister's poignant essay that appeared in the September issue of ON THE FLY, has been picked up by [Florida Sportsman magazine's online edition](#). Read it again. Our fly rods can take us anywhere.



Marine Quest, October 27, downtown St. Petersburg

Fly Tiers from Suncoast Fly Fishers will again be helping future stars of fly angling, learn to tie their first fly at the annual [Marine Quest](#) open house event put on by the Fish and Wildlife Research Center, 100 Eighth Avenue Southeast, St. Petersburg, Florida in downtown St. Petersburg.

Left, club member Terry Kirkpatrick and fly tying students

Licenses Guides and Volunteers Needed. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing still needs a few more licensed guides and volunteers to help take vets fly fishing Saturday, November 17, from the Bradenton Yacht Club. Contact Pat Damico, 727-504-8649, pat4jaws@hotmail.com or Larry Lurie, 407-774-8414, laurencelurie@gmail.com. The plan is to have a meeting of captains and assistants (club volunteers) to meet at 8:30 to review the rules and safety issue. Fishing starts at 9 a.m. and concludes at 1 p.m. at the latest. An awards lunch follows.



Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews

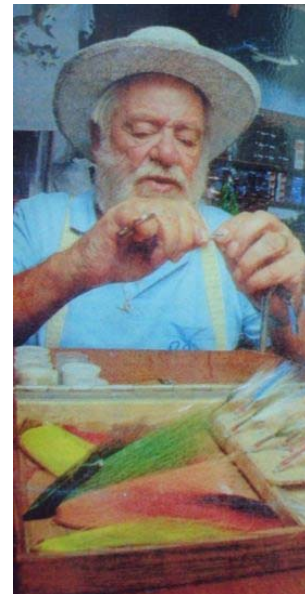
Farewell to My Best Friend "CHAPS Sewell." Chaps went to dog heaven this week. He was my constant companion for 16 years.

September 29, 2012, Fred Howard Park, Tarpon Springs

Our September outing was held in our northern area of Pinellas and Pasco counties. This area has many miles of wadeable grass flats and mangrove islands to fish. Lunch was served at Fred Howard Park, provided by Richard Oldenski. This park has good wading and kayak/canoe fishing. Our prize for this outing was for the largest fish, a nice 18.5-inch trout caught by Tom Hummel. Many fish were caught, including a grouper. (See Tom Gadacz' report on the "Trip to the Great North" also in this issue.

October 20, 2012, Carl Hanson Tournament, Hillsborough River

This is our annual tournament celebrating our memories of Carl Hanson. We fish these waters with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and a trophy goes to the club member that catches the most fish. There's also a nice prize for the largest fish. You may fish anywhere on the river. Lunch (at noon) and trophy presentation will be at Rotary Park on Fowler Avenue. Suncoast Fly Fishers will be preparing the food. This is a special event, and members should attend, even just to celebrate Carl's memory.



Upcoming Outings

November 17, 2012 - Project Healing Waters fly tournament/Emerson Point. Bradenton Yacht Club. Volunteers are needed. Sign up to assist a vet on the boat.

- December 15, 2012 - Don Coleman Memorial and Chili Outing, Fort De Soto Park

Update: Fishing Tournament

Trout - Tie--Mark Hays - 18.5 inches. Tom Hummel - 18.5 inches.

Bass - open

Snook - open

Redfish - open

Sunfish - open

Sunfish - Robert Fischer - 9.75 inches

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 investigation.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Report

Brad Lowman's Secret Fishing Spots

Fort De Soto Park's East Beach is one

By Bill AuCoin



Brad scored this nice redfish at Fort De Soto Park

In the past Brad Lowman has always been pretty good about sharing his secret spots with Suncoast Fly Fishers.

At an SFF meeting a couple of years ago he told us how and where to catch baby tarpon in the winter. He said they're in 6 to 12 feet of water with a mucky bottom. A deep-water boat channel is nearby. So is a shallow flat. A little boat traffic, like at a marina, might even be an advantage.

Here's the money: The channel that leads to and from the marina in Master's Bayou on the south side of the Gandy (U.S. 92). If you see the sign at Galati's Yacht Sales you're very warm.

However, when he started his presentation at our September meeting he came right out and told us he was not going to share any of his secret spots. He said if we had "keen eyeballs, maybe we could tell where he was fishing by identifying the structures in the background.

Well, my eyeballs are not that keen. So I was relieved to hear him talk about the schooled-up bull reds he was catching at first light in August and September with a creek chub fly at Fort De Soto Park. But where exactly?

Okay. It was EAST BEACH!!!! But don't tell anybody.

He told us to keep a diary (via pictures!) When you see pictures of the fish you caught they will remind you where to go and what to do in succeeding years.

This month – October – I'm going for those 8-10 pound jack crevalle that are schooled up in the bay. Jacks are coming back, Brad said. Cast Brad's Lucky Fly, a scaled sardine imitation.

November is when slow-sinking line becomes his go-to fly line. Brad uses Rio intermediate on an 8-weight. He likes clear line. It doesn't spook fish in that clear water like floating line. Sinking line gets his fly down to the sandy potholes where those yellow-mouth gator trout are holding. And it lets his fly swim straight without the hinge effect you get with a Clouser jerked up and down by floating line. He stays with this line through fall and winter.

Fall is snook season (catch-and-release, you know) as this official Florida game fish moves from the beaches and passes after the spawn to the backsides of the barrier islands and bays. They'll migrate along edges like grass to sandy drop-offs until they get to a structure, like a bridge. Brad blind casts the bridge.

At this time of the year Brad also likes to wade-fish an area in South St. Pete he calls "The Swamp." He casts his Lucky Fly and Creek Chub Fly. The snook are facing into the mangrove roots. He caught a 28-incher there last fall.

--Next page: Brad's winter tarpon secret--

Suncoast Fly Fishers Report

Brad Lowman's Secret Fishing Spots, continued

And in the fall-winter-spring, don't forget baby tarpon. If you see a zillion glass minnows, you could be in the right spot. Why would tarpon bother with tiny glass minnows? Well, asks Brad metaphorically, "Do elephants eat peanuts? Tarpon ball them up and crash the party." Brad doesn't throw a glass minnow imitation, though. Too much competition. He tries to get their attention throwing something different, like a scaled sardine imitation. Make it breathe. Tease 'em.

Okay, but where, exactly? Well, again he mentioned "The Swamp" wherever that is. He mentioned Treasure Island but that could be just about anywhere in Boca Ciega Bay. He mumbled something about where two creek mouths come together. Not much help there.

We'll have to get him back. Meanwhile, catch him at work at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure. Buy something from the expanded fly fishing department. Then ask for some specific advice. Be sure to share his insights with this newsletter editor.

Contact Info

Capt. Brad Lowman

Bill Jackson Shop for Adventure

9501 U. S. 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782

727-576-4169



Brad's Lucky Fly: It's a sardine. It's a pinfish. It's super-fly. Brad Lowman photo



Lowman scored this snook on a creek chub fly. Brad Lowman photo

Suncoast Fly Fishers Report

A Trip to the Great North *Report by SFF President Tom Gadacz*

On Saturday (September 29) Richard Oldenski, Dave Barson, and I car-pooled to Fred Howard Park, the great north monthly outing. I called it the Great North trip because Fred Howard Park is located in Tarpon Springs. Although a drive longer than our usual outing, it is a great location for fishing and our outing.

We had discussed going there several times but were concerned that it might be too much of a drive. VP Woody Miller was all in favor of our northern venture since he lives nearby and it would be a short drive for him. Well Murphy's Law came into play and the trip occurred while Woody was fishing in the northern Georgia Mountains. Sorry Woody!

Fred Howard Park is located 35 miles north of St. Petersburg. The park has great boating, wading and picnicking areas. Several of us waded in the clear water with a huge grassy area off shore. Wes Demmon, one of our new members, waded with us and had several strikes.

Don Manning used his boat and John and Mark Craig used kayaks. Several fish were caught and much to my surprise I caught an 11-inch grouper. It was a strange catch. He took chartreuse and white Clouser and headed out for 10 or 20 feet and then stopped. It felt like a tire was hooked and a slow reel in gradually brought him in. After talking with some of the more experienced members, the grouper headed for the bottom and wanted to stay there. This sounded good to me. A first time catch of a grouper on the fly.

Richard set up a great lunch with hamburgers, potato salad, beans and watermelon for dessert. This was a great trip and needs to be scheduled again when Woody is in town and we can head back to the great north.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Report

Storm Passing Over Latimer

Fishing is "okay," reports Andy Constantinou

Not Latimer, Iowa. Not Latimer, Tennessee. Not Latimer County, Oklahoma. But Latimer, UK, a village north of London with summer fishing opportunities for club member Andy Constantinou. He iPhoned this dramatic picture with a note that the fishing has been okay. Like, you know, 5lb rainbow trout are just okay?

And, this just in from Andy on 10/12...."A nice 5-lb rainbow trout caught this afternoon at my UK fishery. It took me down to the backing and pulled a further 20 yards off before I as able to recover the line. Beautiful, fully-finned fish you can tell by looking at the tail."



Suncoast Fly Fisher Report

Sportfishing Focus as Pinellas County Celebrates 100 Years

Pinellas County is 100 years old. The county celebrated the milestone September 15-16 at the new Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing in Largo. Suncoast Fly Fishers were there to help – flipping pancakes and demonstrating fly fishing skills – and to help make the point that sportfishing is and always has been a major attraction for the St. Petersburg-Clearwater area. Oh, and our new wall display dedicated to fly-fishing was a huge success helping to spread the word, as Ken Hofmeister put it, "about the greatest fly fishing club in the country."

Here are pictures of some of the activity with a special thanks for our photographers – Tom Gadacz, Ken Hofmeister and Kirk Burton.

Below, club member Tom Jones puts the finishing touches on the Suncoast Fly Fishers wall display he designed for the new fishing center and museum.



Notice anything? That's Ken Hofmeister's grandson, Ryan Voigt, in the picture and in front of the picture. The more things change the more they stay the same.



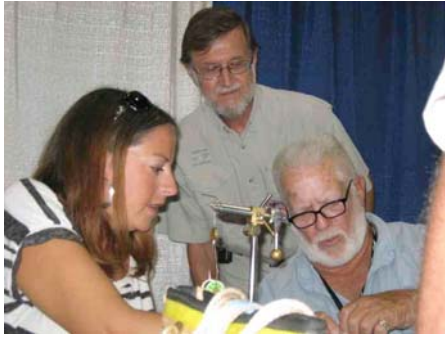
Bottom left. Alan Sewell helps a fly fisher with his casting. Bottom right, after helping at the pancake breakfast Suncoast Fly Fishers settled in for some serious fly tying in front of our wall display. From left to right....Toni Fernstrom, Ryan Voigt, Ryan's mom, and Ryan's Grandmom and Granddad, Ann and Ken Hofmeister.



Suncoast Fly Fishers Report

Suncoast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Partner to Teach Fly Tying and Fly Casting at Florida Sportsman Expo

Photography by Tom Gadacz and Bill AuCoin



Don Manning at the vise. Richard Oldenski looks on.



David Putnam and Ken Hofmeister show Florida Sportsman Expo folks what fly tying is all about. Bob Morrison, our How-To guru, lends moral support.



Above left, Capt. Dan Bumgarner adds another angler to the fly side.

Above, Charlie Most lets a new fly fisher in on some casting secrets.



Left, members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club partnered with SFF to teach fly tying/casting.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Report

INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING

Photos and Report by Ken Hofmeister

Our first *Introduction to Fly Fishing* class at the Florida Gulf Coast Fishing was successfully completed!

Participants learned to do a roll cast and an overhead cast, tie a nail knot and a loop knot. Ken Doty, Thomas Gadacz, Kirk Burton, and Ken Hofmeister delivered this portion of the class.

Participants came back for more on October 3. They tied a schminnow and a spider with the help of Thomas Gadacz, Richard Oldenski and Ken Hofmeister. Confidence was high, so Richard showed them how to get a hook out of a fish. In case skill was not that high, he also showed them how to get a hook out of a person.

They learned where to fish for what species and where to find fishing regulations. Participants were encouraged to go to SFF website for ways to improve their skill and knowledge. Naturally, they were invited to join SFF and get monthly booster shots of fly tying, casting, and fly-fishing tips.

Next class will be scheduled in 2013 and we'll draw from our bench of instructors to staff this session.



Above, Ken Doty helps a student learn the basics of fly casting. Above right, Kirk Burton (red shirt) and Ken Doty (yellow shirt) teach students some of the knots they'll need to know to be successful fly fishers. Others teaching fly casting were Ken Hofmeister, Kirk Burton and Tom Gadacz.



Right, SFF President Tom Gadacz (in SFF hat) and Richard Oldenski (right, wearing hat) teach students to tie flies.

Fly Fishing Injuries

YOU ARE GATOR BAIT

*Are alligators naturally afraid of humans? Maybe. But they don't seem to be afraid of Suncoast Fly Fishers. Check this out and, oh yes, says Doc Oldenski...**be careful out there.***

By Richard Oldenski MD

According to the experts, alligators are naturally afraid of humans. Yet, on our trip to the Everglade Canals, many of us saw alligators follow our flies or pursue the fish we were pulling in. On an outing at the Myakka River State Park an alligator menacingly approached our club members, coming right up to their canoe and not leaving until it was driven away with a blow to the snout. One of our members told us about a trip to Lake Okeechobee during which his fishing partner was bitten in the leg by an alligator.



What's up with these gators?

According to a study done at the University of Florida, fish make up 50 to 90 percent of the diet of alligators living in Florida lakes. We're invading their territory and competing for their main food. On the other hand, maybe they think these guys with funny hats and long, skinny sticks are there to feed them. A fish struggling at the end of a line is probably easier to catch, especially when the guys throw them back in the water. We need to learn how to live with these critters.



Alligators are skilled and powerful predators. They stay underwater near the banks until they can reach their prey. Then they quickly lunge, grab their target and drag it underwater to drown. They are unable to chew their food. If they cannot swallow their food whole, they grab a part with their sharp teeth and strong jaws and twist their head or their entire body and tear off a piece that they can swallow.

Unprovoked alligator attacks in Florida are rare, averaging seven incidents per year. Since 1948, 333 serious unprovoked injuries by alligators have been reported; 22 of them were fatal. Alligator bites can range from minor scratches to serious bone and tissue damage leading to severe blood loss or

amputation. Even minor injuries require medical attention due to their high risk for infection.

Alligators have legal status in Florida. They are no longer on the endangered species list, but they are protected as a "species of special concern" due to their resemblance to the American crocodile, which is a federally designated threatened species. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) runs a nationally recognized program to manage the alligator population in Florida, as well as protecting Floridians from nuisance alligators that have lost their native fear of humans. The FWC allows an annual alligator harvest, which provides commercial and recreational hunting opportunities and helps to achieve population management objectives. In 2010, the last year for which data are available, 7,736 alligators were harvested, including 5,856 nuisance alligators.

---Next page: How to beat up an alligator ---

Fly Fishing Injuries



YOU ARE GATOR BAIT, continued

The FWC has the following recommendations for alligator safety:

Be aware of the possible presence of alligators when in or near fresh or brackish water. Negative alligator encounters may occur when people do not pay close attention to their surroundings when working or recreating near water.

Never swim or wade where alligators are known to be present. Ninety percent of unprovoked alligator attacks occur while people are swimming or wading near the shoreline

The best way to protect yourself if you are paddling is to keep your hands and feet inside the boat and to be cautious and aware when entering or leaving the water. You should be especially cautious at dawn, dusk and at night because that is when alligators are most active. If you fish from your canoe or kayak, be careful when retrieving fish from the water and if you keep any fish do not keep them on a stringer in the water. When back on shore avoid throwing fish scraps in the water when you clean your fish.

If you observe an alligator swimming toward your canoe or kayak you should paddle quickly away from the alligator until it is no longer swimming toward you. In the unlikely event that an alligator approaches closely to your boat slap the water's surface near the alligator with your paddle and move as quickly away as possible. In the extreme circumstance that a large alligator lunges at or bites your boat, rap the alligator on its snout with your paddle and quickly paddle away.

If an alligator bites you, the best thing you can do is fight back, making as much noise and commotion as possible. Hitting or kicking the alligator, or poking it in its eyes may cause it to release its grip. When alligators seize prey they cannot easily overpower, they will often let go and retreat.

Never feed or entice alligators – it is dangerous and illegal. When fed, alligators overcome their natural wariness and associate people with food.

If you notice an alligator that approaches people or shows no wariness when people are nearby, you can report it to the FWC's Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 1-866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286).

For more information go to www.myfwc.com and <http://www.kingsnake.com/suncoastherpsociety/SHSgator.htm>

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Copperhead or Cottonmouth?

Last month this Wikipedia Commons snake photo accompanied Richard Oldenski's article on snakebites. Notice a problem? Well, it's not a copperhead; it's a cottonmouth moccasin. He called it to the editor's attention and said, "Let's see if anyone notices." Hey Doc. Nobody did.

Tying Bench – Slinky Shrimp *by Brad Lowman*

Dynamite is illegal. This fly is a good (and legal) option



The Slinky Shrimp is a one-fly-fits-all imitation that excels in the grass, in sandy holes, and in channels or drop-offs during any shrimp season and in any shrimp area. Cast it up-current and let it drift back naturally, mending the line as necessary. Give it a few small bumps and, occasionally, a sharp pull. Don't work it

too quickly, though. Let it be a shrimp. I also tie this fly with a bend-back hook so the material covers the point to help prevent it from snagging grass and hanging up on oyster bars. For more detail and pictures refer to the Fly Tier's Bench in the [March/April 2008 issue](#) of Fly Fishing in Salt Waters.

Materials

- Hook: Owner Mosquito 5377-121 2/0 or Tiemco 600 SP #2
- Thread: Monofilament .004
- Eyes: Puglisi Crab/Shrimp Eyes, large-natural
- Body: Steve Farrer Blend (Slinky Fiber/Angel Hair) Shrimp
- Legs: Sili Legs clear/pearl/silver flake and gold/black
- Antennae: Black Krystal Flash
- Flash: Pink Krystal Flash
- Adhesive: Head cement or Sally Hansen Hard as Nails.
- Barring: Pantone marker, brown

Tying Instructions

1. Tie eight clear/pearl Sili Legs under the hook and opposite the hook point. Tie in four gold/black Sili Legs on the top of the hook shank. Trim. Secure with cement.
2. Cut a ¼-inch bundle of Slinky Fiber Angel Hair. Pinch it in the middle and rock it between your thumb and index finger to spread fibers evenly left and right. Then tie the middle of the bundle to the hook shank just in front of the legs. Pull the front fibers back and tie them in to blend with the fibers in back. Taper with scissors.
3. Tie in eyes on the back post with 30 tight wraps at a 45-degree angle in front of the hook eye then pull the eyes back behind the hook and secure the front post with 15 or more tight wraps.
4. Cut another but smaller bundle of Slinky Fiber Angel Hair, roll it between your thumb and index finger to even it out, then tie it in under the shank so that it hides the eye posts top and bottom.
5. Tie in four pearl Sili Legs under the shank. Tie in six Krystal Flash (pink) strands on top. Then, for the antenna, Tie in two Krystal Flash (black) strands to each side of the fly. These are the antennae.
6. Whip finish and mark the segments with the pantone pen.

Fly Rod Advantage: Cast and Repeat

By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Casting tip 35



One of the advantages when using a fly rod is that when you recast all the line does not have to be reeled in before starting as with a spin or bait caster. Missing your target by a few feet when sight casting will allow a repeat accurate cast by slowly starting your backcast so as not to disturb the water, thus scaring the fish. Changes in line length and position of cast are corrected while false casting before delivering the fly. Another application of this principle is when missing a fish, especially with a subsurface presentation; a repeat cast can be immediately made to the same spot while the fish is still there by not changing the line length and minimizing false casting. This is especially useful when fishing wet flies or streamers.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Report

Need to Know Knots

1. *Non-slip Rapala Knot*
2. *Triple Surgeons Knot*

By Dayle Mazzarella

The Non-slip Rapala knot should be in your knot arsenal when using 8# up to 20# tippet tied to streamers.

Link # 1: Netknots.com

Link #2: Animatedknots.com

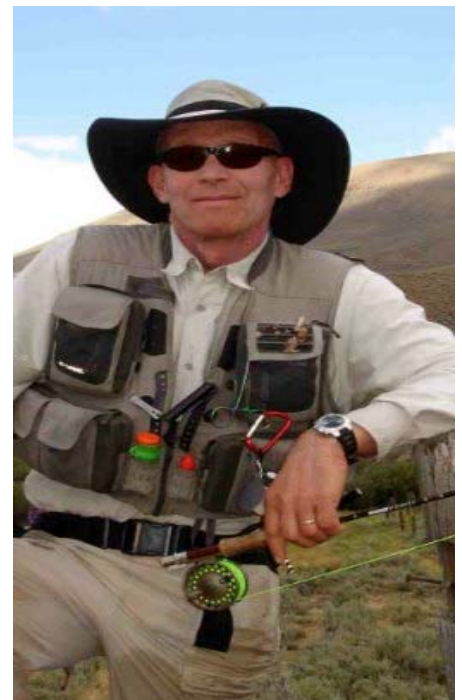
I also favor the triple surgeons knot when tying together leader sections with radically different diameters.

Link #1: Saltwater Sportsman

Link #2: FAQs

Other than these I use most of the same knots fishing out west as we all use in bay and nearshore waters surrounding Tampa-St. Petersburg.

Club members Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella typically fish Wyoming waters in the summer and fall where Dayle guides trout anglers. (contact at emailmazz@yahoo.com) then they return to Tampa/St. Pete for the winter/spring fishing season.



Bob Morrison How-To



Wrinkle-free stick-on eyes

When tying flies with "lead" barbell eyes, I have noticed that there is a ridge across the face of each eye that interferes with smooth wrinkle-free attachment of holographic stick-on eyes, resulting in an unsatisfactory appearance of the finished eye. To solve the problem I use a small file to remove this ridge and give me a flat surface to which I then attach the stick-on eye for a nice, smooth look. Picky-picky, eh? Also, I use a hatpin, which has a sharper point than a bodkin, to more easily remove the stick-on from its eye sheet and attach it to the barbell. Finally, a coat of head cement all over the

barbell helps the finished eye to stay in place.

Barbell burrs?

Speaking of filing, I notice that when tying on bead chain eyes, a sharply burred end of the chain can protrude from the eyeball at the point where I cut the pair of eyes from the chain. This burr can cut my tying thread, so I file these burrs until they are completely smoothed over. I broke my thread three times recently while tying only one fly before I finally got the message.

Experience is the toughest taskmaster

I recently noticed that my leader straightener had become corroded, as had the hook of a freshwater fly that I had used in salt water. I had obviously forgotten this tackle when I rinsed my rods and reels in fresh water after fishing the flats. I also check my vest for any items that might have gotten wet while fishing. I have also learned the hard way to keep my fly boxes above the water line. 'Nuff said.

Salt flats wade staff

For trout fishing on rocky, slippery freshwater streams, I have always used a wading staff. To my surprise I have found that here on the flats the staff helps me to find drop-offs and holes, as well as helps me ward off sting rays by poking the bottom ahead of me, and helps me discourage any ten-foot bull sharks that may consider me tasty and nourishing.

Slippery vise?

To prevent my table-attached tying vise from slipping when it shouldn't, I have glued a piece of fine emery paper, from the hardware store, to each gripping surface. This move seems to have solved the problem.

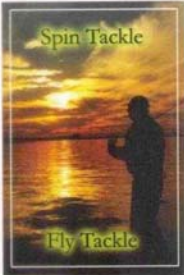
Good luck. Fillet and release.

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Member Chris O'Byrne writes...

Thanks for the work that goes into On The Fly. I am enjoying the "How-To" section especially.

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

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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

Some of our favorite websites...

New Website Recommendation

Recommended by Ken Doty

Editor's note. So I'm out walking on a recent morning. I've got my bird watching hat on and I'm penciling in bird names on my list and I then I see this familiar species flying straight at me. Turns out it's fellow club member Ken Doty and he's on his bicycle. So I asked Ken his favorite fly-fishing website and he told me. It's got a catchy slogan, too: "Better to know a knot and not need it, than need a knot and not know it."

So I added Ken's to the list. (The website list, not the bird list.)

[Animated Knots by Grog](#)

[Suncoastflyfishers.com](#)

[www.floridawildlifemagazine.com](#)

[FloridaSportsman.com](#)

[Fishermanscoast.com](#)

[FlyFishinSalt.com](#)

[SaltwaterSportsman.com](#)

[AnglingTrade.com](#)

[CaptPat.com](#)

[Earthnc.com/online-nautical-charts](#)

[SaltwaterTides.com](#)

Members, got a good fishing website you want to share with other Suncoast Fly Fishers?

Email Bill AuCoin,

wmaucoin@verizon.net

Fly Over

Here and there in the world of fly-fishing

By Bill AuCoin, Editor, *On The Fly*

Hint. Hint. Here are some new books you'll enjoy having in your fishing library. You can give them to yourself – You deserve it, right? – Or you can print this page of the newsletter and leave it in a conspicuous spot. Hint, hint.



Mark Sosin – A Sportsman's Memoir. The star of TV's *Mark Sosin's Saltwater Journal* gives us 350 true adventures about his five-decades of hall-of-fame angling. He starts with the one about becoming one of the first to catch a sailfish on a fly. Number two – Zero, Zero -- is compelling, too. In the early '70s he and Ed Zern were in a tiny plane flying over Chile's Central Valley in the waning dusk. Clouds had reduced visibility almost to zero and everybody was looking for the runway. His sharp eye and savvy Spanish were lifesavers, literally. He spotted the runway light. "Luz verde" Mark yelled. Lives were saved. Buy it direct at the marksosin.com website.

The Saltwater Angler's Guide to Tampa Bay and Southwest Florida. By Capt. Tommy Thompson. This is your bible for the hot spots (including GPS numbers) from Chassahowitzka to Chokoloski including a huge section about his hometown waters of St. Petersburg and the Pinellas peninsula. Buy it from University Press of Florida – www.upf.com. And, stay tuned. The author will be invited to one of our meetings to share some of his angling secrets.

Randy Wayne White's Ultimate Tarpon Book. The novelist and former tarpon guide teamed with Carlene Fredericka Brennen to compile what may be THE collection of tarpon stories from the earlier days of Southwest Florida tarpon fishing. This one is subtitled *The birth of big game fishing* and includes contributions from Teddy Roosevelt, Ernest Hemingway, Ted Williams, Thomas McGuane, Joe Brooks, Zane Grey and even Thomas Edison. Buy it at a bookstore or direct from University Press of Florida, www.upf.com.

How to read a book in the great outdoors. If you're like most people over the age of 40 you need a little help with the close-up vision thing. Onos Polarized Performance Sunglasses can be ordered with low-profile bifocals with magnifiers so you can see the text on the page. Here's a bonus. You can use the magnifiers to help you tie a better knot or tread the bite tippet through the hook eye. Check 'em out at ONOS.COM.