

On The Fly

September 2012 Volume 22, Issue 9

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



SFF Membership Renewal. September is the month to renew your SFF membership. In this issue of "On the Fly" you will find a membership renewal form. It is important that you complete the form to insure that we have your correct address, phone number and e-mail address. This will allow us to have an accurate list, which can be shared with all members. We do not include your e-mail address on this list to protect your privacy.

The cost of renewal is an amazing \$15 for individual membership, \$25 for family membership and \$100 for corporate membership. The benefits of membership are also listed in the newsletter.

The monthly meetings with outstanding programs, the monthly outings with lunch, an outstanding newsletter, "On the Fly" which has all the information you need to fish in this area with casting and fly tying tips, an annual banquet (Hog Roast and Silent Auction) and fly casting clinics organized by a FFF certified master fly casting instructor.

These are just a few of the advantages of SFF membership. The most valuable aspect of membership is the camaraderie of club members and a willingness to help each other improve your skill and have fun on the water.

You can renew at the membership meeting or if you cannot attend send in your membership form with a check made payable to Suncoast Fly Fishers. The mailing address is on the membership form.

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.

Casting Clinic. SFF, Charter Club Member of the International Federation of Fly Fishers hosted a fly casting clinic this past Saturday at Maximo Park. FFF Certified Master Casting Instructor Pat Damico had an outstanding group of casting instructors (Ken Doty, Woody Miller, Charlie Most, Chris O'Byrne, Alan Sewell, and Leigh West) that improved our casting skills. This is just one of the benefits of membership in SFF and FFF. We had a range of fly casters from beginners to a few slick casters and many like me who needed (continued next page)

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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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

- September 20 meeting, Walter Fuller Park – Brad Lowman presentation and fly tying. Fly Box exchange for signed up participants.
- September 29, Fred Howard Park Outing. Note new date
- September 22-23, SFF exhibit at Florida Sportsman Show, Tampa Fairgrounds. Florida Sportsman is providing free exhibit and casting areas for the Suncoast Fly Fishers to teach tying and casting.
- 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 a.m. – 4 p.m. The SFF will have a fly tying table at Marine Quest. We need fly tyers to help teach kids how to tie their first fly. Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, St. Petersburg.
- November 17 – Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing tournament at Bradenton Yacht Club. Contact Capt. Pat Damico.

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

Prez Sez, continued from page 1

Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers

encouragement of my good casting habits and advice to improve my poor casting techniques. Improving my haul was my greatest take home lesson thanks to Pat and Leigh. Charlie reminded me to speed up my casting stroke, which tightened my loops. The handout of “The 6 Essentials of Fly Casting” is great. What a pleasant event! If you were not able to make this session, please make sure you attend at the next session.



September Outing Date Change. The club outing this month will be on **September 29** (Saturday) at Fred Howard Park. The reason is a conflict with Florida Sportsman’s Show, which is held on September 22-23 and conflicts with our usually scheduled outing for the Saturday following our membership meeting. We have a booth at the show and encourage you to attend the show. For more details see Alan’s outing previews on page 8.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SFF MEMBERSHIP!



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name* _____ Date _____

Address* _____

City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____

Telephone* (____) _____ E-Mail _____

*This information is shown on the membership list which is distributed to members only and is not used for commercial purposes.

The monthly newsletter, "On the Fly," is only distributed electronically.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) membership categories (select one):

____ Regular Membership 1 year - \$15 (*September 2012-13*)

____ Family Membership 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) - \$25

____ Business Membership 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) - \$100

Make check payable to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and mail it to

Suncoast Fly Fishers
Attn.: Roger Blanton, Treasurer
P.O. Box 40821
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821.

MY MAGIC WAND

"It's odd a flyrod became a compass on my voyage. The thing's a psychic crutch, to be sure, but also a psychic tool—the fisher's equivalent of a wizard's wand, knight's sword, monk's bowl, surgeon's scalpel. A flyrod is a scalpel: it cuts deep into the river's ability to conceal, exposing truths that would remain unseen without its cutting; it feeds faith each time the cast is answered by a strike." David James Cameron, The River Why, pp. 302-303.

By Ken Hofmeister

A fly rod is my magic wand—taking me on unforeseen adventures. There is indeed magic in fly fishing illuminated by a full moon, or the majesty of a sunset, or the beauty of a sunrise. There is the thrill of a fish smashing a newly-tied fly, affirming the craft and choice of this offering.

My fly rods have taken me into numerous new friendships that I never would have dreamed of. These long rods have led me into causes and crusades that were not on my planning board before retirement.

Without a fly rod, I would never have had an inclination to join Suncoast Fly Fishers and engage in an entirely different demographic of diverse individualists tied loosely together by a love of the sport.

The long rod has led me into some gator filled, rain soaked swamps. These magic wands have taken me into canoe dragging low water of the Withlacoochee River and the channel erasing high water of the Hillsborough River. I've had waders filled in Oregon's Deschutes River and lost gear standing in Lake Okeechobee. Mosquitoes have been larger than the flies I used. I've jumped overboard to retrieve a dropped fly rod.



The author with his magic wand in one hand and, in the other, a banana-in-the-boat salute to SFF VP Woody Miller.

Would I have planned a trip to Belize if a fly rod were not going along? Probably not. Would I have hoarded a closet full of fly tying materials if I didn't have to feed this rod's incessant demand for new and better offerings? Probably not. Would I have attended twelve casting clinics in hope of controlling this beast? Certainly not. Would I have watched monthly fly-tying demonstrations and taken notes on countless presentations if my fly rods weren't pressuring me to learn and do better? Never. How about dedicating a 16-foot closet to holding these fishing tools? No way. What about a bay boat without bow rails to facilitate easier casting? Not likely.

Carrying a fly rod toward new water brings about a sense of urgency, a quickening of the analytical skills, a rush of anticipation, and a wave of faith and hope. Carrying a fly rod away from those same waters leaves me with a humble need to learn more and listen closer as I think about patterns, presentations, and persistence. I replay the events and think: "Next time I will land the one that got away." Hope springs eternal.

Fly rod in hand, I'm not alone, bored, nor lost. I'm one with it all. I am energized and I am at home. It is not a graphite lightning rod—it is a magic wand!



Ken Hofmeister, magician with a long wand

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n Notes



Hubba, hubba. Here's our new logo.

The new logo appears on our SFF cards which direct people to our website for more information. And you'll see it in our brochures, a new banner, and the website. Our thanks to SFF director Mark Craig for this fine work. Right, the old logo, mountains and all.



September 20 meeting program – Brad Lowman



Want to know what fly to tie and where to cast for snook, redfish, and trout this fall?



Be sure to attend the Thursday, Sept. 20 meeting for the how-to and where-to from one of the Bay's area's most in-the-know fly fishers, Brad Lowman. You can also pick his brain (and the shelves) when he's on duty at the fly shop at **Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure.**

Top, Brad Lowman and friend

Fish with a vet November 17 in Bradenton. This is our November outing with members serving as volunteers aboard captained boats hosting vets for Project Healing Waters. We'll meet at Bradenton Yacht Club. Thanks to Capt. Pat Damico for all he has done for PHWFF as its regional director. Pat has announced that his term is ending and that his responsibilities as regional director will be assumed by Larry Lurie, assisted by Kevin Garby. A prize will go to the vet who catches the largest fish.

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n Notes

Help Wanted: Fishing Expedition for American Vets. November 17.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing still needs a few more licensed guides and volunteers to help take vets fishing Saturday, November 17, from the Bradenton Yacht Club. Please read the letter below from Pat Damico and Larry Lurie, outgoing and incoming regional directors for the Southeast. Their contact info is below. Let them know you will help. Thank you -- Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers.



Dear Captains,

As some of you may know, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military personnel and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, fly casting education and outings. We have over 130 active programs at VA facilities, some of which are in Florida. Trout Unlimited and International Federation of Fly Fishers clubs provide volunteers to assist in this worthwhile endeavor. Most emphasis has been on freshwater salmonoids leaving a vast untapped area of saltwater that we are only now beginning to pursue. Many of our facilities, especially in the Sunshine state, are close to saltwater. In my position during the past six years as Regional Coordinator for the Deep South I have wanted to introduce our deserving veterans to the wonders and joys of fly fishing in the salt. We have been able to do this in a small way and have watched the joy and satisfaction that has accompanied all involved in these trips.

Our guidelines require licensed Captains to operate any boats involved in taking our veterans out during these events. We are in need of Captains who are responsible and interested in giving their time to help those who have given much for our freedom.

This event at Bradenton Yacht Club, Saturday, Nov. 17, will serve as a template for more future outings. Our day will begin with a short meeting of Captains and volunteers before embarking on a four-hour fishing trip in the bountiful waters close to the club. A fly club volunteer will accompany each veteran on a boat allowing the captain to concentrate on his or her ability to get to areas where flies can be presented to fish. The Bradenton Yacht Club is an ideal location on the Manatee River, which offers many protected areas as well as easy access to Tampa Bay. A private launch and adequate parking are located on club property. After fishing we will have lunch and recap the morning fishing with fellowship and awards.

Hells Bay Boats has been very supportive of PHWFF providing some of their local Captains and boats, but more are needed. We would like to have about 20 boats participating as this number will give us a balance of vets, volunteers and Captains. Please consider helping us with this event. A definitive schedule of the program will follow. Feel free to contact either Larry Lurie, Deep South Area Coordinator for PHWFF, or Capt. Pat Damico with questions or concerns.

Healing those who serve,

Capt. Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach, 727-504-8649, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
Larry Lurie, Orlando, 407-774-8414, laurencelurie@gmail.com

Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum

Our club's three major projects at this amazing new facility in Largo are moving along nicely. Anyone interested in any aspect of our programs at the Fishing Center can contact Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski or Tom Gadacz.

These are our projects:

1. We're putting up an exhibit of fly fishing that occupies a large wall, a display that is certain to catch the eye and draw in school kids of a certain age. (The center will be hosting 14,000 a year on field trips.) Tom Jones is designing this impressive display. Stay tuned.
2. Volunteers are going to schools with fishing clubs in Pinellas County and talking to students about fly fishing.
3. We're also teaching two courses in Introduction to Fly Fishing. One covers fly-casting, rigging and knots. The other covers fly tying and first aid. These classes will help us bring more anglers, young and old into the growing ranks of fly fishers. Ken Hofmeister has organized this undertaking. SFF provides four club rods, four club vises. Instructional staff provides fly tying and knot tying materials. SFF instructors will bring their own rods and vises for this class.



Jim Simons, second from left, is director of the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum. He stands with some members of the club's committee working with the center. Here they stand in front of the wall that will become a display about fly fishing. The picture on the wall? That's Carl Hanson, now deceased, one of the first members of Suncoast Fly Fishers who taught hundreds how to fly cast and tie flies. From left to right: Ken Hofmeister, Simons, Joe Dail, President Tom Gadacz, Tom Jones, and Hugh Copeland.



Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews

August 18 -19 All Night Fishing

This was our annual night fishing tournament. The weather was good, no wind inshore and the fish were biting. Lots of fish were hooked and landed. Trout, reds, snook, ladyfish and others were caught. Even our new members who fished the docks caught fish. There was some wind and heavy grass on the beaches which prevented surf-casting. The grand prize was for the longest total of inches for a slam – snook, redfish, and trout. All species were caught, but none by a single angler. I have not recorded the length of fish that could be entered in our yearly tournament, but we will hear about them at our next meeting. Another great outing for the SFF.

September 29, 2012, Fred Howard Park and Anclote River

Our Club will be fishing the flats, river and islands in the northern area of our coast. This is a really good place to fish the flats by wading or kayaking, or launch your boat at Anclote River Park and fish the flats and islands. Fred Howard Park has a good launch site for canoes or kayaks. The prize will be for the longest fish caught. Lunch will be served at Fred Howard Park. THIS OUTING HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH, BECAUSE OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE FLORIDA SPORTSMAN SHOW.

- **Fred Howard Park**, like Fort De Soto Park, has a \$5 entrance fee. For directions on Mapquest or other sites enter 1700 Sunset Drive, Tarpon Springs. For more information about the park visit http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/06_howard.htm
- For directions to the launching ramp on Mapquest and other sites enter **Anclote River Park**, 1119 Bailey's Bluff Road, Holiday, Florida. According to the Pasco County website, the launching fee is \$5. Parking is \$2.

Upcoming Outings

October 20, 2012 - Carl Hanson Tournament

November 17, 2012 – Project Healing Waters guided fishing for vets. Bradenton Yacht Club.

Volunteers are needed. Sign up to assist a vet on the boat.

December 15, 2012 - Don Coleman Memorial and Chili Outing

Update: Fishing Tournament

Trout - Mark Hays - 18.5 inches

Bass – open

Redfish – open

Sunfish – Robert Fischer – 9.75 inches

Snook - 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 investigation.

Suncoast Fly Fisher Report

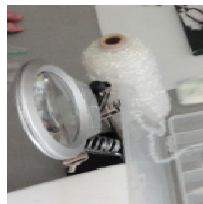
August Meeting. Redfish on a Fly

John Adams and Bill Lott tied flies and presented Suncoast Fly fishers with a multi-media presentation at the August meeting. It was all about catching a redfish on a fly. Reports and photos by Paul Sequira.



John Adams (left) and Bill Lott presented Suncoast Fly Fishers with a program on how to catch tailing redfish in the spartina grass and elsewhere. Their presentation included tips, techniques and videos including one of our club members, Ken Doty stalking and landing a tailing redfish. John tied some of his redfish fly favorites .

Smitty, aka Layne Smith (right) demonstrated how he ties the Schminnow. Tom Jones makes mental notes. Go to the Suncoast Fly Fishers website and you'll find the list of materials and the step-by-step instructions for the Schminnow as tied by Paul Sequira in the [June 2009 issue](#). Smitty said he prefers hackle feathers rather than the original marabou for the tail. He ties two facing each other. Below, Smitty's Schminnow to be in the vise.



Suncoast Fly Fisher Report

Captain Pat's Casting Clinic

The wind is your friend. Repeat three times. And how to avoid hooking your buddy's ear and other considerations.

On September 8 Captain Pat Damico, MCI, and his team of fly casting pros held their semi-annual Fly Casting Clinic at Maximo Park in St. Petersburg for about 25 fly fishers. Reports sent to On The Fly from participants confirm that this one-on-one help makes all the difference solving casting issues.

Here's a report from Capt. Pat,

We braved the windy conditions to have some of Richard Oldenski's coffee and donuts while preparing for our 12th semi-annual Casting Clinic. The participants were there to take advantage of our diverse instructor staff consisting of Charlie Most, Alan Sewell, Woody Miller, Ken Doty, Chris O'Byrne, Pat Damico and from TBFFC, Leigh West.

About a third of the group identified themselves as beginners and as the morning progressed, they quickly accomplished many techniques to tighten their loops, increase distance and accuracy and handle all wind conditions like pros. When Richard rang the lunch bell we all sat down to take a break, enjoy the fine fellowship and plentiful food. Discussions were about what was accomplished during the morning.

Instruction continued after lunch as we refined and fine tuned our skills. Feedback from our instructor staff as well as participants was very gratifying. Each session continues to get better. New FFF members were greeted and several expressed interest in joining our accomplished instructor group.

Thanks to all who helped us further Suncoast Fly Fishers Club goals."

From Ken Hofmeister:

"THE WIND IS YOUR FRIEND!" That's what Pat Damico said as the 25mph wind blew things off the table. So what did I learn this time at the casting clinic? Well, Leigh said I couldn't blame flawed casting techniques on the wind. Leigh, who taught me to double haul, reminded me that I had forgotten some of those basics--like assuring that my hands touched while hauling.

Pat Damico showed me how to keep from hooking my ear by casting on my leeward side. As usual, it seems a bad back cast won't produce a fine forward cast. Alan said to forget the wind knots (wind has nothing to do with those knots) and instead get the knot out of my fly line (happened on last night trip). Casting improved immediately. Chris emphasized paying attention to the positive model rather than focusing on incorrect practices.

Richard Oldenski said lunch was ready but I was the only one that heard him. I learned to listen to Richard and go for it before the hungry horde devoured all the food.

From Tom Hummel:

Today's fly casting clinic was the second opportunity I've had to receive instruction from Capt. Pat Damico and his fellow instructors. The windy day presented challenges as we worked on casting techniques in windy conditions. We all received one on one instruction improving our back cast for that better forward cast, keeping a tight loop and the double haul. Time spent with the instructors was a valuable experience. Thanks again Pat, Chris, Leigh and crew.

Pat's Fly Casting Clinic

Modifying Fly Rod Length

By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Casting tip # 34:



Casting Tip 34:

As a casting instructor, I frequently feel we learn more than our students. When a "light bulb goes on" in a student's mind it is very gratifying. The advantage of having a capable staff and taking turns with each student unleashes some very interesting observations. One student said when he realized that he was casting with the tip of the rod and not the whole rod or the butt section his casting improved immediately. When practicing, concentrate on your rod tip keeping in mind that the line always follows the rod tip. If your loops are large, move the rod tip in a straight line path and loop size will narrow.

Suncoast Fly Fisher Report

More Thank-You Notes for Captain Pat's Casting Clinic

From Richard Oldenski:

Thanks for another great casting clinic. I had a great time. My goal was to identify and begin working on the weak parts of my casting. Every one of the instructors spent time with me and provided a very clear explanation of what I am doing wrong and showed me how to fix it. This was always done in a friendly, non-threatening and non-condescending manner. The whole team was great. According to the weather report, the wind was out of the SW at 10 to 20 mph; we could tell as it was coming right at our faces. At one point I looked around and was impressed to see all of us casting into the wind with our line in small tight loops. We need not fear the wind!

From Jim Bandauer:

I attended the last casting clinic and unfortunately did not have enough time to practice what I learned back then. This week, I was reminded that 'less is more'. The harder I pumped my arm, twisted my body and flexed my wrist, the shorter the cast. Pat walked up, grabbed my hand and 'we' tossed that fly 40'. I told him he should go offer his services to the Rays as a hitting coach. Keep them from swinging so hard; just hit the ball. I just have to keep my wrist stiff, move my arm from 10 to 2 and let it fly. Thanks Pat, Leigh and Chris. By the way, I did launch a few that felt just right and really flew.

Tying Bench – Sassy Sally Cichlid Fly by Paul Sequira

"Tie a few so you'll be ready for SFF's Glades assault next spring"

"A few months ago, Florida Sportsman magazine featured the Sassy Sally Cichlid Fly (I'll call it the SSCF) designed by Ron Kowalyk. It really got my attention because I had never seen a fly designed specifically to



catch cichlids and the other exotics that we have swimming in the canals along I-75 and the southern end of the Tamiami Trail (US 41). Besides the native large mouth bass, bluegills and stump knockers, etc. that live there, we have Mayan and Midas cichlids, Oscars and Peacock Bass. That's right. Peacocks aren't bass at all; they are cichlids. These exotics are all very aggressive feeders and will eagerly hit flies that represent the juvenile members of their own species as well as any others. I know they haven't been too plentiful these last couple of years because of the two unusually cold winters we've had, but they will be back in strong numbers as our winters normalize. These non-native fish will hit surface lures, but you'll get a lot more action

from them with subsurface flies such as small streamers, Clousers and flies like the SSCF.

"I found this fly very easy to tie although not easy to make pretty; however, I don't believe the fish care how pretty our flies are. I tied the half dozen pictured in about 45 minutes.

Materials

- Hook: Mustad 3906B or any heavy wire hook in sizes 1 to 4
- Thread: 6/0 Unithread - color to match body
- Tail: Bucktail - color your choice
- Overtail: red yarn
- Flash: Few strands of Krystal Flash - color to compliment tail
- Body: wool yarn or medium Ultra Chenille – color your choice
- Hackle: Dyed Grizzly to complement body
- Eyes: small or medium bead chain

Ron recommends combinations of yellow, orange, chartreuse or brown bodies and tails as being very productive for him and suggests that you experiment with whatever color combinations you find pleasing.



Tying Instructions

1. Wrap the hook shank with thread from just behind the eye to the start of the hook bend and back to the starting point.
2. Tie in the bead chain eyes using figure eight wraps just behind the hook eye. Leave some room for a finished head.
3. Tie in a small bunch of bucktail (about 1½ times the hook shank length) just above the hook point and back to the start of the bend. Add a few strands of Krystal flash and a small plume of bright red yarn above the tail extending to about ½ the tail length. Use a black Sharpie permanent marker to add a small vertical stripe to simulate an ocellus (from the Latin oculus (eye), and literally means "little eye").
4. Tie in a dyed grizzly saddle hackle by the tip at the start of the hook bend and leave hanging towards the rear.
5. Tie in a length of Ultra chenille (or wool yarn) where you tied in the hackle tip. Wrap the chenille forward to the bead chain eyes and tie off. Clip the excess chenille. Palmer the grizzly saddle hackle forward evenly spaced for about 5 turns. Clip and discard the excess hackle.
6. Wrap a small neat bullet shaped head, coat with head cement and you are done.

SNAKE BITE

Bitten by a snake? Get thee to the emergency room. DO NOT try to suck out the venom. DO NOT apply a tourniquet. DO NOT drink a beer. Seriously, do not drink a beer.

By Richard Oldenski MD



In our search for new and unfrequented fishing spots, we fly fishermen tread into remote areas inhabited by snakes. Fortunately, snakes try to avoid contact with humans, but if they feel threatened, they will defend themselves. Most snakebites occur when someone tries to capture or handle a snake. But "accidental" snakebites do occur when the victim unwittingly gets too close to a snake, and they are always a medical emergency.

Of the 44 species of snakes native to Florida, only six are venomous. They are divided into two groups based on the nature of their venom: the Crotalidae or pit vipers and the Elapidae.

The pit vipers include the diamond-back rattlesnake, canebrake rattlesnake, pygmy rattlesnake, copperhead and the cottonmouth, which is also called the water moccasin. The venom of these snakes causes tissue damage and bleeding. A person bitten by them can experience pain, progressive swelling with bruising and blistering, bleeding, nausea, low blood pressure with dizziness and confusion, and eventually shock.

Rattlesnake



The only member of the Elapidae group in Florida is the eastern coral snake. Its venom attacks the nervous system. A person bitten by a coral snake may or may not feel pain when first bitten, but can go on to experience progressive paralysis possibly to the point of being unable to breath.

Eastern coral snake



Each year approximately 8,000 venomous snakebites occur in the United States, but only about five of these bites result in death. The only effective treatment is antivenin. The sooner a person with snake envenomation receives antivenin the better their chances to avoid loss of limb and death.

What to do in case of a snake bite? First of all, don't panic. You are not about to die.

Snakebite continues on next page>>>

SNAKEBITE

by Richard Oldenski MD

Stay calm and get to the nearest emergency room for treatment. Try to identify the snake, but do not waste time trying to kill or capture it. If it is dead, do not handle it as dead snakes can still reflexively strike. If possible, call the emergency room so they can get the antivenin ready. Remove any rings, watches, jewelry, bracelets or tight clothing that can cause constriction if the swelling increases. Keep the body part that was bitten as immobile as possible and below the level of the heart. Get to the hospital and don't delay.

Copperhead



Here's what not to do. Do not cut the wound open or try to suck out venom. Suction devices in snakebite kits have been shown to have no effect and may cause more damage. Do not apply a tourniquet. Do not apply ice or heat. Do not eat or drink anything, especially no alcohol or anti-inflammatory pain medication like aspirin or ibuprofen as these can make the effects of the venom worse. Don't delay; get to the hospital.

Steps to avoid snakebite:

Be familiar with the snakes in your area and their habitat.

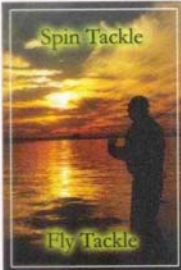
Always take a buddy with you.

Wear boots and loose fitting long pants if you're going into areas where venomous snakes live.

Stay on trails and watch where you place your hands and feet, especially when climbing over logs and rocks.

Do not take snakes by surprise. Pound your feet on the ground or use a stick to make noise to warn them that you're coming.

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



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 Web: <http://captpat.com>
 Email: flyguy@captpat.com



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Some of our favorite websites...

New Website Recommendation

Recommended by Paul Sequeira

In the event that you missed it, there was a notice in the Tampa Bay Times that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's magazine "Florida Wildlife" is now free and online. It was mentioned in an earlier newsletter, but now it is up and running. The link is...

www.floridawildlifemagazine.com

Suncoastflyfishers.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

How-To

By Bob Morrison



Fly Fishers should never throw anything away

Save those silica moisture-collecting pouches that come with new shoes, electronics, and so on. Put a couple in each rod case to keep your rods dry. Be especially careful of cases with sponge or foam padding at the end inside the case where the rod butt sits, and the other end as well. Once in a canoe up in Maine, we capsized, and one case holding two nice split bamboo rods got soaked through. I neglected to check this case immediately, and when I did open it three months later, both rods were completely delaminated. Nuff said.

Can you say long shank hook?

It's hopper time in fresh water, since grasshoppers are full-grown now. Some are huge-I saw one that was over four inches long. It was a yellowish tan in color, with black and white rings on the abdomen. Tie one on a long-shanked streamer hook, and try it over there by the weeds and stumps. On a related topic, Lefty Kreh recommends using long-shanked streamer hooks for tying popping bugs for use in both fresh and salt water. Lefty says that long -shanks will result in more and better hookups, and better popping action as well.

Did somebody say "terrestrials"

I've noticed that after a rain there are usually a lot of them that have been washed off the trees and into the water. These can include hoppers, beetles, ants, palmetto bugs, and bees. I've also seen washed-out mice, frogs, salamanders, and anole lizards. Try them all, and see what happens.

How to apply insect repellent ... cleverly

Like insects, some fish don't like insect repellent. To accommodate fishy, I put a few drops of repellent on the back of each hand. I then rub the left side of my face and neck with the back of my right hand, vice-versa for the right side. This way the repellent doesn't get on my fingers, and then on my flies when I am handling them. Clever, eh?

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Fly Over

Here and there in the world of fly-fishing

Grab a show coupon -- [Florida Sportsman Tampa Expo](#) is Sept. 22-23 at the Florida Fairgrounds. It starts at 10 a.m. each day. You can save a buck by visiting [suncoastflyfishers.com](#) and printing out the coupon. If you go to the show you must -- positively, absolutely -- visit the Suncoast Fly Fisher exhibit in the back of the hall near the fly-casting pond. Our craftsmen will be helping young and old tie their first fly.

September-October redfish -- Capt. Doug Hemmer writes in the [Tampa Bay Times](#) that 26-32-inch redfish are schooling up and moving up the bay. If you find a redfish school move in quietly. Cast something that looks like a pinfish. Work the edge so that you don't spook the whole school.

Help clean up the bay -- Put this on your to-do list: Put your name on the list of Tampa Bay Watch volunteers who donate their time, brains and brawn to help clean up our bay. They need you to build oyster bars, plant salt marsh grasses, search for scallops, remove invasive plants, pull old monofilament from mangrove branches, and remove abandoned crab traps. Visit the [TBW website](#) and give them your contact information.

Can you say "net ban" -- We all owe a debt to Coastal Conservation Association. CCA's Pinellas banquet September 20 will be held at NOVA 535 in downtown St. Pete. Tickets are \$80. Couples pay \$140. But here's the thing. You can bid on gear and artwork, fishing vacations in exotic lands, a paddleboard even. Check it out on the [CCA website](#) and call Mike Modisette (407) 257-7333 to reserve your seat at the table.

How about a carp tournament? -- Carp are doing fine, of course. They're everywhere. Can they stand the pressure of a series of carp tournaments? Read all about it [Angling Trade](#) magazine.

Learn from the birds -- Don't fail to pay periodic visits to [FishermansCoast.com](#) to read Dr. Aaron Adams' blog. The September 9 entry has insights about how birds help you find fish and also help you determine the kind of fish they spook when they fly over shallows.

Fly fishing Florida in February -- Writing in [Florida Sportsman online](#), Mike Conner presents a terrific roundup of winter fly fishing opportunities in Florida. It's not too soon to start planning. Put baby tarpon in brackish water on your winter to-do list.

Ethanol. It's political -- Did your outboard motor's fuel system have trouble digesting E10? Did you know that EPA issued a top-down waiver for E15? Are you ready for E30 and E40? Boat and motor manufacturers, retailers, BoatUS, [boating columnists](#), and a bunch of anglers say corn subsidies are wrong for the environment, they're sending food prices sky high, and they're killing their outboard engines. Weigh in at [smartfuelfuture.org](#). Comments will be accepted until Sept. 26.

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Bill AuCoin, Editor
ON THE FLY