

On The Fly

April 2013 Volume 23, Issue 4

Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



We are delighted that Phil Greenlee, President of our International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) attended our annual Hog Roast event. He was very impressed with our club and the activities we offered members. SFF has much to offer anyone interested in fly-fishing and the support from IFFF makes many of these activities possible. The casting clinics by IFFF certified master casting instructors is a key component to our success. Thanks to all who served on

the Hog Roast committees. We had great auction items and value packed buckets to raffle. We are interested in your opinion and want to improve all events. In this issue of the newsletter is an evaluation form for the Hog Roast and Silent Auction. **Please fill it out and bring it to the next meeting or mail it in. Thank you for your feedback.**

Vision/Values Award. This year we honored Bill AuCoin with the 2013 SFF Vision/ Values Award. Bill has done a remarkable job with our newsletter and has recruited several excellent guest speakers. This month it will be Rick Grasset. Our vision is to be



Florida's leading fly fishing club, helping members have fun and gaining knowledge and skill in fly casting, tying and fishing.

Our values are to meet

members' needs, friendliness and constant improvement. Bill has succeeded in all of these categories. Bill, we greatly appreciate all you do for our

members.

SFF Embroidered Shirts. We have identified a company in Tampa that will embroider shirts with our new SFF logo. **You supply the shirt.** Bring your shirt and \$10 (cost of the embroidering) to the JUNE meeting. If you already have a favorite shirt, get it washed and if you're looking for a new shirt, purchase it before the June meeting. You may have as many shirts as you desire embroidered at \$10 per shirt. We will put the logo above the left pocket since most shirts have their own logo above the right pocket. Tom

Also in this issue of On The Fly

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SFF Survey on 2013 Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Please circle your evaluation of the categories below. At the bottom, please enter any additional comments. **Please do not sign your name.** Bring to the membership meeting or mail to ...

Suncoast Fly Fishers, PO Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743

1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Location 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor
[Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum]

Program 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor
[SFF in review 2012, Continuous slide show, speakers]

Entertainment 1 = Excellent, 2 = Very good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor
[Recorded music]

Quality of food

Pork 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Fish 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Beans 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Cole slaw 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Watermelon 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Desserts 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Door prize 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Grand raffle prize 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor
[TFO rod, reel and line]

Fly boxes 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Fishing trips & casting lessons 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Silent auction items 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Bucket raffles 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Length of event 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Awards ceremony 1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor
Vision/Values award; Fishing awards

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS:

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

SFF Club Calendar

- Thursday, April 18 meeting, Capt. Rick Grasset. Topic: Fly-fishing the flats in the spring.
- Got buggers? Myron Hansen, our club's fly exchange chairman, reports that fly tiers will tie and exchange wooly buggers at the April meeting. The wooly bugger is a productive fly in fresh water. (Hey, just in time for our Everglades Outing.)
- SFF Logo shirts. Grand Slam T-shirts are \$15. Also, for \$10, you can have the new logo put on your favorite shirt. Get details at the April meeting.
- Saturday, April 20. Outing. Walsingham Park. See Alan's Reviews and Previous page for details.
- April 25-27, Everglades Canal Outing. See Alan's Reviews and Previews page for more info.
- Thursday, May 16 meeting, Tie-a-thon
- Saturday, May 18, Urban Outing, Coffee Pot Bayou to Demens Landing, downtown St. Petersburg
- Saturday, May 18. Project Healing Waters veterans tournament. Bradenton Yacht Club. Capt. Pat Damico may need boats and skippers and observers.



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
- 7:00—8:00 pm – Meeting and program



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: Kirk Burton, 727- 631-3033
Secretary: Ken Hofmeister 725-521-1637
Treasurer: Paul Sequira

Board of Directors

Mark Craig – Pat Damico - Myron Hansen
David Putnam - Alan Sewell
Tom Trukenbrod – Karen Warfel

Committees

Volunteers welcome. Please speak to any director.

Casting Skills – Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

FFF Liaison—Pat Damico

Fly Tying – Myron Hansen

Membership – Paul Sequira

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n Notes



Congratulations, Tom

Congratulations to Tom Gadacz who was recently elected president of the International Federation of Fly Fishers Florida Council. Tom demonstrates impressive leadership ability as SFF president, and he will no doubt lead the Florida Council of FFF to new levels of achievement. We're excited about the future under his leadership. (Ken Hofmeister)

Major fly-fishing events

- September 24-28, 2013
International Fly Fishing Fair
West Yellowstone MT,
For more information: <http://fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair.aspx>
- October 18-19, 2013
Florida Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers Expo
Crystal Springs, FL
The Plantation on Crystal River, FL
Hotel registration: 800-632-6262 mention Florida Council Federation Fly Fishers. For more information: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Councils/Florida/EXPO.aspx>

Welcome new members

- Jeff Lewis: Introduced to fly-fishing on the rivers and streams of Washington State in my early teens, I developed one view of how it's done. Over 3000 miles away and nearly 4 decades later I've return to fly fishing, as I learn to fish Florida's waters; much different. I would also like to thank Project Healing Waters.
- Ray Virgilio: Fly-fishing has been my hobby for 35 years at least. I started trout and bluegill fishing in streams in the NW part of NJ around Blairstown near the Delaware Water Gap. I started saltwater fly-fishing in Florida around 2004 with some experienced friends. Whether wading or in a boat I still learn something new every time I put a fly in the water. I have bone fished in Bahamas and the keys. My fly-fishing challenge is what fly to use for each species and when.
- Mark Hardies: I started fly fishing and tying as a kid in Minnesota. Since then my profession has taken me to several states all of which I was able to continue fly-fishing. For the last 15 years my wife and I have called Florida home. Most of my current fishing is either from kayak or while anchored near an island on our sailboat.
- Larry Morse: Before relocating to Florida I lived, worked and played in northern New England, primarily in New Hampshire with special haunts in Vermont and Maine. My professional career has centered on the natural resource sciences as a regulator in New Hampshire and as a private consultant/business owner serving public, private and utility sectors throughout New England. Since the early teens I have been an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting, hiking, fishing, skiing, canoeing, kayaking and wilderness camping with a special interest in activities associated with remote waterways and the sea. My enthusiasm for fly fishing and fly tying was a natural extension of these interests and became a consuming focus of my recreational activities in the mid to late 1990's, starting first with trout fisheries and migrating toward saltwater and stripped bass. I am looking forward to the saltwater opportunities in Tampa Bay. My favorite trout fly is an olive hare's ear nymph and striper fly is a Bondorew Bucktail.



New member Jeff Lewis



Larry Morse with a blue marlin he caught in Jamaica. "Not on a fly," he adds, encouragingly.

New to the club? Tell other members about your interest in fly-fishing. Email the editor with a fly-fishing bio, 25-50 words. Email a picture, too, if you have one. wmaucoin@verizon.net

Report: Tenth Annual Hog Roast Raises \$3,000+

Bill AuCoin: Our big event honored by IFFF's Phil Greenlee



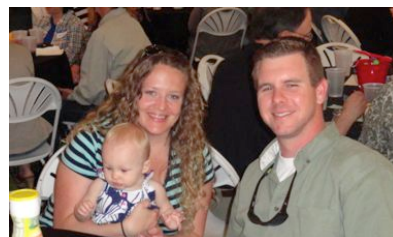
Phil Greenlee (l, chairman and president of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF), flew in from California to attend the tenth annual Suncoast Fly Fishers Hog Roast. Here he stands in front of the new Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum in Largo with SFF President Thomas Gadacz, who also is the newly named president of the Florida Council of the IFFF. Gadacz announced that the fund raiser netted \$3,169.27 which will help fund our club's ambitious programs teaching fly-fishing to students, scouts and veterans.



Fishing Center founder/president Jim Simons hosted the annual event. Simons thanked Suncoast Fly Fishers for their continuing support of the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum.



Auction and program engineers, l-r, Al Pitcher, Ken Hofmeiser, Robert Oldenski.



Layla Craig, future fly fisher, outbid everybody for a few sips of milk. Parents Kelli and Mark Craig are at the helm.

Report: Hog Roast Raises \$3,000+

Continued from previous page



Top, Greenlee met and chatted with SFF's Annie Hays whose essay earned her a slot at the IFFFF's Bighorn River Youth Adventure in Fort Smith, Montana in June 2012.

Left, Hugh Copeland reached deep to outbid others for this Orvis Clearwater 9-wt outfit.



IFFF's Phil Greenlee, fourth from left, stands with Suncoast Fly Fishers board members in front of the SFF's saltwater fly fishing wall display, probably the most popular attraction at the new Center for Fishing in Largo. designed by member Tom Jones, the display was completed after a generous donation from the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Livingston, Montana.

Report: Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp Award

Layne Smith: Robert Fischer is my #1 Field Tester



Layne Smith awarded his Golden Eye Shrimp fly award to Robert Fisher, right, his "#1 field tester."
"This fly works when others don't," Fischer says.

Editor's note: Let's hear it for the Golden Eye Shrimp. When nothing else works, this fly does. Layne (Smitty) Smith ties one of the best Jim Orthwein Golden Eye Shrimp flies known to man, and Robert Fischer regularly provides proof of that when fishing the flats. At the Hog Roast Smitty presented Fischer with a trophy topped off with a depiction of the trophy fly that catches world-record gamefish. It's clear this project took a bit of time, and skill. Given that the fly atop the trophy (but not in real life) is pretty big, Smitty put these words on the bottom of the trophy.... "IN CASE YOU DECIDE TO DO OFFSHORE!!!"

Here's the backstory from Smitty.)

has been my # 1 "Field Tester" for my fly creations (since I don't get out to test them much on my own) ... Whenever I come up with something new, I tie some up and give them to Robert ... He takes them out and fishes with them, then gives me an honest appraisal; do they act right in the water ... do they swim properly ... do they represent what they are "tied" to represent ... Is it a fly he'd keep in HIS flybox and use ... and the thing I like most is he let's me know if they DON'T work and what he thinks it needs to improve them ... That helps me tie better flies

... As to the "Award", Robert introduced this fly to the Suncoast Fly Fishers at the May 2012 meeting. He told me later he didn't quite have the right materials to tie the fly but it was catching fish ... in NUMBERS. I told him I'd research the fly (Tied by Jim Orthwein) and I found the recipe but no tying instructions ... So I put my noodle to work and came up with a set of tying instructions that I introduced to the West Coast Slam Workshop ... I have since tied 16 to 20 dozen of these in the past few months for the St. Pete and Tampa club members ... To date my most successful fly, in large part to Robert's enthusiastic promotion ... So out of my "fertile" mind, I had to come up with an off-the-wall way to thank him for his years of dedicated help and friendship ... Since this has been one of his



Golden Eye Shrimp Trophy. In real life, ingredients include peccary bristles, bead chain eyes, fish hair, Mylar tubing, V-rib, saddle hackle and about an hour of your time. Or, you could buy some from Smitty.

most successful fishing patterns, it just seemed natural to tie him one he'd remember for some time ... To put it in a "nutshell", it was my way of saying THANK YOU to him for being such a devoted friend at fishing partner ... And that's how it came about.

Smitty

P.S. I was in tears the whole time I was tying that monster ... from laughing so hard just thinking about the look I knew would be on Robert's face when I gave it to him I was NOT disappointed.



Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews

March 16th -- Our March outing was a great day spent casting with casting instructors Dayle Mazzarella (MCI), Pat Damico (MCI), John Hand (MCI), Leigh West and Steve Parker. Almost 30 members spent the day casting, eating and socializing. You could not have attended and not learned a lot more about casting than you thought you already new. Good job instructors!

April 20th -- Our April outing will be held at Walsingham Park. This is a fresh water outing. You can fish from the shoreline, kayaks, canoes, or boats. However, combustion engines may not be used, only electric motors. Our prize will be for the largest bass caught, no matter the size. To enter into the yearly contest, the bass has to meet the FWC size restrictions. At this time, all covered shelters are reserved. There is one across from the boat ramp that is available on first come, first gets it. We will try to grab this early. If not, we will have our lunch on the shore. This will be an early practice for those going to the Everglades.

April 25 - 27 -- Everglades Canal Fishing. La Quinta Inn, Sunrise, Fl., 954-846 1200. Ask for rate for Suncoast Fly Fishers. \$76.50 per night. Make your plans now. Boats are recommended. Kayaks and canoes will work, but there are alligators. Boats can be rented close by at Holiday Camp Ground. If you need more info call me at 727-470-4570.

May 18 -- Urban Outing - Downtown St. Pete

June 22 - Float and Fish the Hillsborough River

**Suncoast Fly Fishers yearly tournament starts now.
Bass, Sunfish, Trout, Redfish, Snook, Other.**

2013-2014 FISHING TOURNAMENT RESULTS *Suncoast Fly Fishers yearly tournament starts now*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bass				
Sunfish				
Trout				
Redfish				
Snook				
Other				

Ready-Set-Go: Everglades Outing, April 25-27

Paul Sequira: What's The Story on Fishing The Everglades

[Editor's Note: This comprehensive Paul Sequira article has appeared in On The Fly twice before, the April 2010 issue and again in the April 2011 issue. Thanks, Paul.]

If you've heard about SFF's annual special club trip to fish the Everglades and never joined in on this event, you probably have a few questions. After all, "The Everglades" covers a lot of acreage in south Florida so just what are we talking about? At previous club meetings, many questions were asked and much excellent information was offered. I'll review some of those questions and provide information that I think will be helpful to those who have never fished there.



Where do we fish in the Everglades?

The canals right along Alligator Alley (I-75) in the general vicinity (about 5 miles west of the tollbooth) of the intersection with Route 27. This is known as the Miami Canal system. As you are traveling east on Alligator Alley you will see pull-offs from the highway with parking lots and boat ramps on both the north and south sides of the roadway. They are located near mile markers 31, 32, 38 and 41. Also, there are three boat ramps along Rt 27 (north of I-75) giving you access to these north/south-running canals. This is known as the New River Canal system. Somewhat further north on Rt 27 is another excellent fairly new canal access called Holey Land with plenty of parking and a first class boat ramp.

Go to Google Earth to view these locations. A listing of boat ramp locations along with GPS coordinates can be found at the website "Inshore Boat Ramps in SE Florida, Broward County" <http://www.inshore.com/br-brwd.html> The ramps we are interested in are the last three entries in the list.

Everglades Holiday Park has excellent access to a large canal system (the New River Canal - South system) and is located off Rt 27 (about 5 miles south of I-75) on Griffin Road (the first traffic light you come to on Rt 27). There are boats with outboard motors available for rent here. Go to <http://www.evergladesholidaypark.com/> for more information and excellent directions and map.

Continued on next page>>>>>

Sequira: Get ready for the Everglades

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Where do you stay? A convenient and comfortable place to stay is the LaQuinta Inn Sunrise Sawgrass Mills, 13651 N.W. Second St, Sunrise, FL 33325 tel. 954-846-1200. Directions and map at <http://go.reservediscounthotels.com/hotel/propertydetails/134566/MAPS?isHRN=true&cid=265820> Also, campsites are available at Everglades Holiday Park tel. 954-434-8111, see link in preceding paragraph for directions and map. Both of these locations are a reasonable drive from all of the fishing spots listed above.

There be dragons (sort of)

Can you wade fish in the Glades? The short answer is no. Although the water depth in the canals varies depending upon rainfall and how much water is being released into them, the average depth is said to be approximately 18 to 20-feet. Also, there are many very large alligators that claim residence in the canals and everything swimming there can be of great interest to them.

What kind of boat is needed? Canoes, Ghenoes and boats under 18' are excellent choices. Because of the large alligators resident in the canals, kayaks may not be a good choice. Due to the condition and size of some of the boat ramps, boats in excess of 18' may not be the best choice for the canals. An electric trolling motor in addition to your outboard motor is very helpful. Jon boats with outboard motors can be rented at Everglades Holiday Park; however, these boats cannot be removed from this canal system. This is not a handicap, I have hooked my largest bass to date in this canal, and there are also peacock bass in this canal system.

What size fly rod is recommended? Any 4 or 5 weight fly rod in whatever length you are comfortable with will work. Long casts are not necessary when fishing the canals. In most of them, if you run your boat down the middle, you can easily cast to either side of the canal. If you enjoy throwing larger poppers, a 6 weight rod is helpful.

What flies are recommended? Everyone has their favorite flies for bream and bass fishing; but if I could have only one fly to fish the Glades, it would be a white foam spider or beetle tied on #8 or #10 hooks. Many flies work, in fact I don't know of any fly that doesn't work in the Glades. I like to fish top water and in addition to the foam spiders and beetles, I really enjoy fishing poppers in white or yellow colors, on #6, #8 or #10 hooks. However, the fish don't seem to have a color preference; I know that chartreuse and fluorescent pink poppers also work very well. The determining factor seems to be whatever color you can see best. I have also found small Clousers to be very productive when you find schools of bass chasing small minnows. You'll often find this situation around little creek-like runoffs into the canals. I like the Little Brown River Clouser but I'm sure other colors such as gray/white etc would work just as well. I have had success with weighted nymphs such as Jim's Bead Head Nymph and Bully's Bluegill Spider. Most of the flies mentioned here are described in the fly tying section of SFF's website www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Continued on next page>>>

Sequira: Get ready for the Everglades

What kind of fish can I expect to catch in the Everglades? Bluegills, redear sunfish, spotted sunfish, warmouths etc, large mouth bass, peacock bass, bowfin, Florida gar, oscars, and Mayan cichlids are the fish most commonly caught. We have just gone through a couple of record breaking cold winters for Florida and this has had a bad affect on some of the exotics, but the fishing there is normally so good, you will still catch a lot of fish and have a terrific time. For an incredible list of fish commonly found in Everglades waters go to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/SouthFlorida/everglades.html>



Joe Dail with an Everglades cyclid



Ken Hofmeister with a very respectable Everglades black bass.

There you have it, all the information you need to fish the Everglades canals, even if it is your first trip there. Barring anymore bad weather, I feel safe in saying that fishing in the Everglades will be an opportunity for you to catch more fish in any one days fishing than you have ever experienced before. Also, you will have a terrific time with your SFF friends with lots of good stories to tell when you return.

More Everglades info on next page>>>

ReadySetGo: Everglades Canal Fishing Update

Russ Hampton: Canals are Red Hot. We're talking 200-fish days

Editor's note: Secretary Ken Hofmeister got an Everglades canal fishing report in early April from Russ Hampton of Clermont. Hampton has made many fly-fishing trips to the Everglades flood control canal system. He made a presentation to Suncoast Fly Fishers in May of 2008 and recently gave this days-old report to Hofmeister.

"I talked to Russ Hampton today and received a preliminary Everglades fishing report. Russ had just talked with one of his South Florida fishing contacts who reported that the Everglades fishing was "red hot." I asked: "What does 'red hot' mean?" He replied: "200 a day." Russ went on to say that his friend fishes for bass and reported that these were small bass. Larger bass were to found in the main canal (I-75 and Hwy. 27). Russ himself is going down April 12-14. He will give us his report after that. Russ, of course, does not fish for bluegill; rather, he tosses a large gurgler back in the lily pads for big bass. Also, he fishes canals farther south." *Ken Hofmeister*

Here are additional bits of info that Russ Hampton shared with Suncoast Fly Fishers at the May 2008 meeting:

- There are more than 1,400 miles of canals in the South Florida flood control system and much of it is accessible with a little research as to the best place to launch. For a free booklet with maps of all of the canals phone the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), 561-686-8800, and ask for the "Facilities and Infrastructure Location Index."
- Fly fishing paradise is a 100-fish day with a 6-weight flipping a Spider Fly. Sometimes paradise is attained when you skitter a weed-guarded gurgler across the pads to an open spot. Bass lurk there.
- In some canals, paradise is a snook, like the 18-pounder Hampton caught in Snapper Creek Canal (C-2). in the SW Miami suburbs. Or C-111, Aerojet, an eight-mile canal that forks and bends and meanders for eight miles. Check it out at <http://www.floridafisheries.com/docum/aerojet.html>
- Other Hampton favorites are the Black Creek Canal, Cutler Drain Canal, Cypress Creek Canal, North and south New River Canal, Snake Creek Canal, Tamiami Canal, the Miami Canal off of L-67, and the Holey Land Wildlife Management area.
- Another Hampton's favorite is C-111, Aerojet, an eight-mile canal that forks and bends and meanders for eight miles. Check it out at <http://www.floridafisheries.com/docum/aerojet.html>
- Mosquitos are under control in South Florida's canal network but, apparently, canal gators still act like spoiled brats. Hampton said they've been hand-fed too many catch-and-release meals.



Hampton's lilypad bass gurglers

Report: March 16 Casting clinic

Dayle Mazzarella: Wow. What a Casting Clinic



Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella

Those of you who couldn't make the March 16th casting clinic at Maximo Park missed out on a really special day. The weather was perfect; the attendees were perfect. Everything was great. To those that attended, thank you. You were awesome.



Looking at the evaluations, one thing really pops out - of the 16 evaluations returned (there were 28 people total) virtually every one of them referenced the quality of the instructional team. Yet, not one of them mentioned any specific instructor. If you get a chance, please pass on your appreciation to Pat Damico, John Hand, Steve Parker, and Leigh West. Thanks to Alan Sewell and Richard Oldenski who provided coffee, donuts and a delicious lunch.

Those of you who did not attend, make sure you attend our fall clinic, details to come.

***Dittos from Pat Damico:** The program was designed to improve everyone's casting skills whether beginner or advanced. All areas of casting were covered as well as a series of events at the end to apply these skills to some casting challenges similar to the Big Gun. Smaller groups benefited from individual instruction in areas such as line mending, quick casts, change of direction casts, accuracy and distance

I met Dayle Mazzarella this morning and we went over casting clinic and plans for the next one in fall. The review sheets completed by participants say it all. A few examples:

- Got my SFF membership back 10 fold
- Wow, what an amazing collection of instructors
- With the exception of Conclave, this is the best instruction ever
- This was fantastic, could not be better"
- Good for all levels, I did not feel out of place being a beginner
- Individual hands-on was excellent



Report: Casting Clinic Fun and Games

Ken Hofmeister: Giving tourists something to talk about

There we stood, all twenty-five of us, waving PVC pipes ... in slow motion and giving the tourists something to talk about.

When Dayle Mazzarella judged us capable of this task, we graduated to holding a real fly rod (carefully—with thumbs pointed to the ceiling).

Starting with step-by-step basics, we built on previous skills by watching a positive demonstration, getting coaching, receiving feedback from a partner, and having an IFFF certified instructor provide further prompting and tips.

After showing we could do a roll cast without strangling our partner or harming nearby wildlife, we worked on: quick cast with Steve Parker, mending with Pat Damico, double haul with John Hand, and distance with Leigh West. Afternoon groups were a repeat with the addition of accuracy and spey casting.

Excellent lunch revived us and energized us for the “fun and games” session where the obstacle course was readied for us. Here, we had a chance to demonstrate our improved casting abilities (or not).

It was a hoot to put into practice our quick cast, off shoulder, into the wind, left/right legged cast, under the dock, around the piling, and from a moving boat (just kidding on the last one).



Dayle Mazzarella at the March 16 fly casting clinic: Going through the motions is a good thing.



Could we have a big hand for Master Casting Instructor John Hand? (That's the MCI in the safari hat on the right).

Such a deal! No charge for IFFF/SFF members (membership has privileges). Fly-casting is a sport where practice yields progress (not perfection)—especially if you practice the right behaviors in the right way.

This event helped us improve in several areas and enhanced our ability to impress each other—if not the fish, with our proficiency in casting.

Thanks to all the IFFF casting instructors who gave so freely of their time and talent.

Report: March 16 Casting clinic

Gadacz + Damico--IFFF Membership is a Bargain

Maximo Park, St. Petersburg, was the location of a full day of fly-casting instruction Saturday, March 16. Some members of Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club joined SFF for a casting clinic that takes place every spring and fall **at-no-cost-to-IFFF-members**.

Participants who did not belong to IFFF joined that day. Pat Damico, MCI, who has given these programs since 2007 asked MCI Dayle Mazzarella to be the lead instructor for this event.

Dayle applies many years of teaching and coaching skills to his approach to teaching fly-fishing. They were joined by TBFFC members *John Hand, MCI, Leigh West, and Steve Parker* as they coached almost 30 participants through a well-prepared program designed to improve everyone's casting skills whether beginner or advanced.



Dayle Mazzarella, IFFF Master Casting Instructor, took the lead on the fly-casting instruction at Maximo Park March 16.

All areas of casting were covered as well as a series of events at the end of the day designed to apply these skills

to some casting challenges similar to the Big Gun Shootout competition held every November sponsored by the Tampa Club. After a great lunch and fellowship, smaller groups benefited from individual instruction in areas such as line mending, quick casts, change of direction casts, casting in the wind, accuracy and distance. This was an outstanding example of how our members can continue to benefit and increase their fly fishing skills under the watchful eye of good instructors.

I want to thank all who participated as well as Barbara Mazzarella who helped Dayle set up and take down his unique casting aids that made this such a wonderful event.

Alan Sewell and Richard Oldenski SFF members provided coffee, donuts and lunch to the group.

Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

Casting Clinics increase membership and maintain retention

How can fly fishing clubs increase their membership and keep members interested in the club? There are multiple ways such as having interesting programs, outings and banquets. One of the events that have been very good for the Suncoast Fly Fishers is casting clinics. These started before I was a member of the club and have developed into a well-organized event that is a highlight of our activities. The only catch to attend the two per annum clinics is membership in IFFF. Or you can pay \$50 or join IFFF. Everyone joins.

Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



Tying Bench – Deep Silhouette by Tom Jones

Our March meeting headliner, Capt. Tommy Thompson, is a big fan of the Deep Silhouette fly. Member Tom Jones agreed to tie the Deep Silhouette at that meeting, and has contributed the following instructions. Tom writes, "The Deep Silhouette is a great snook, baby tarpon, and even freshwater bass fly. I have tested it in the daytime in the flats and at lighted docks at night and caught fish both times.

Here's where you can see a video demo: <http://www.intheriffle.com/the-riffle/deep-silhouette-fly-tying-video/>

Materials

Hook: Your favorite #1 or #2 hook

Thread: Red flat waxed nylon

Eyes: Bead chain or lead dumbbell, depending on how fast you want it to sink

Tail: 6 white saddle hackles

Flash: Pearl Flashabou

Collar: 1 white and 1 red saddle hackle



Tying Instructions

1. Flatten the barb on the hook.
2. Wrap hook with a layer of thread from the eye back about 1/4".
3. Tie on eyes and wrap thread back about 1/2" toward the tail.
4. Tie 3 saddle hackles on one side close behind the eyes.
5. Tie 3 saddle hackles on the other side.
6. Tie on 6 strands of flash, letting half the strands go down each side.
7. Tie in a white saddle hackle at the front of the tail and palmer forward, pulling the barbs back before each wrap. Stop before eyes, leaving a little room for the red hackle collar.
8. Tie in a red hackle and palmer forward, tying it off at the back of the eyes.
9. Wrap thread to front of eyes and whip finish.

Report: Capt. Tommy Thompson

Bill AuCoin: Suncoast Fly Fishers' March Meeting Speaker

Tommy Thompson grew up in St. Petersburg. He caught the fishing bug (and lots of fish) early. Fishing was great then. And, you know what, it's still great.

Thompson lives in Gainesville now, teaches at the University of Florida, and guides out of Steinhatchee and other Big Bend ramps and resorts.



Tampa Bay and all the waters surrounding St. Petersburg-Clearwater figure prominently in the guide-and-author's newest book -- [The Saltwater Angler's Guide to Tampa Bay and Southwest Florida](#).

It's an amazing what-where-when-and-how guide. And it's only one -half of a knockout punch of fishing the entire Gulf Coast. The first book in the Thompson Guide series is [The Saltwater Angler's Guide to Florida's Big Bend and Emerald Coast](#) (Wild Florida).

Whether you're going to fish the Florida Panhandle in the north, the Ten Thousand Islands in the south, or any Gulf waters in between you'll want to check Thompson's guides to keep you pointed toward the fish and away from trouble.

Thompson told members that fishing in Tampa Bay was great when he was growing up in St. Petersburg. And he also told them fishing in Tampa Bay is still great and better than it was then. The bay is cleaner, it has more grass-flats acreage, and it probably holds more reds, specks and snook than the so-called good old days.

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www.flanaturecoast.com/capttommy/

www.saltwateranglersguide.com



Fly Fishing First Aid and Prevention

Richard Oldenski: "Fly-Fisher" Elbow

By Richard Oldenski MD



The elbow plays a major role in casting a fly rod. It is your elbow that raises your rod and line off of the water, accelerates to a sudden stop on the back cast, then changes direction and accelerates forward to an abrupt stop on the forward cast. Furthermore, the muscles and tendons that control your wrist and keep it from moving during your cast originate at your elbow. It's no surprise that 39% of fly fishers surveyed had experienced elbow pain. The surveys also indicate that those who fly fish in saltwater have elbow pain twice as often as those who fish in fresh water.



The elbow consists of 3 bones with 3 joint articulations, 4 different muscle groups and 3 major nerves. It basically functions as a hinge joint but it also rotates to move the wrist and hand. At least 43 different pathologies of the elbow have been documented. If you have pain in the elbow, see your doctor for a proper diagnosis and treatment.

Fly-fishers get "tennis elbow"

The two most common overuse injuries of the elbow are lateral epicondylitis, also known as "tennis elbow", and medial epicondylitis, sometimes called "golfer's elbow" or medial tennis elbow. Only 5% of patients with tennis elbow actually play tennis. Fly fishers are at risk to get both conditions because casting a fly rod requires both backward and forward movement of the forearm, stressing the muscles and tendons on both the inner and outer aspects of the elbow. Pain and tenderness on the outside of the elbow, that increases with making a fist and grasping, is characteristic of tennis elbow. Pain and tenderness on the inner side of the elbow, that increases with turning your wrist and thumb down, is typical of golfer's elbow. Do not try to diagnose yourself. Injuries of other tendons and muscles and even nerve injuries can present with these same symptoms.

If you experience pain in your elbow when casting, paddling your kayak, lifting your gear or after a fall on your elbow, begin first aid with RICE (rest, ice, compression and elevation) and see your doctor.

Continued on next page>>>

Richard Oldenski: "Fly-Fisher" Elbow

Continued from previous page

The following can predispose you to overuse injuries of the elbow:

1. Increasing the duration, intensity or frequency of fly-fishing without proper conditioning.
2. Casting heavier rods and heavier line.
Casting with a haul and using shooting heads.
4. Casting a rod with a grip that is too small for your hand.



-
2.
3.

Here's some advice to prevent elbow pain from fly-fishing:

- Do stretching and strengthening exercises to keep your elbow conditioned for fly-fishing. Dr. Peter McCann MD, a specialist in orthopedics and sports medicine, has a website demonstrating exercises for elbow rehabilitation and conditioning. You can find it at

http://www.wehealny.org/services/bi_orthosportsmed/elbow.pdf

- If you're planning a trip on which you will fish more frequently and more intensely, gradually train and condition yourself for the increased demand before you go.

- According to researchers at the University of Montana, those using multiple casting styles (overhead, sidearm and elliptical) had less elbow pain than those who used only one style. They also noted that the prevalence of elbow pain was significantly lower with the overhead style compared with the elliptical style.

- A rod grip that is too small for your hand will require more hand grasp tension thus stressing the forearm and the elbow. Choose a rod with a grip that fits your hand without causing you to grip too tightly. As an alternative, you can tape the cork grip to increase its diameter or wear a glove. You can get fingerless gloves, which often have padding in the palm.

- Learn to cast with proper body mechanics and use your whole body. Again, Lefty Kreh is an expert on how to cast to prevent injuries. Check out his demonstration on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMlo2y-Eu-0>. Keep your elbow "on the shelf" and don't twist your wrist.

Overuse injuries of the elbow can take up to 18 months to two years to heal. First aid with RICE and proper medical evaluation and treatment can shorten that time period. A better option is prevention by conditioning, using appropriate equipment and learning and practicing proper fly-casting. The time and effort spent on prevention will pay off in more valuable time fishing.

Fly Fishing Fitness

Chris O'Byrne: Fight back against swift currents and mucky bottoms



Wading saltwater flats demands strength in your leg muscles to fight the current PLUS extremely good body balance when your boots sink a foot into the muck of a salt flat.

You don't get this strength and balance sitting behind a desk or a remote control. You get this strength and balance with a daily-fitness routine.

Here's the plan:

1. Develop strength and endurance in legs

- Park farther away
- Walk around the lake
- Use standing desks
- Take the stairs

2. Develop balance with the "airplane" exercise

- Stand on your left foot with arms out to each side.
- Lift your right foot to the rear and lean forward as far as is safe. Hold that position.
- Switch sides and repeat.

3. Increase aerobic capacity and improve body strength with exercises that involve the whole body and last at least 20 minutes.

- Swim
- Walk
- Paddle

*Suncoast Fly Fisher **Chris O'Byrne** uses his background in Physical Education and coaching to inform his teaching as an IFFF Certified Casting Instructor. Check with your physician before starting an exercise program, or a strenuous trip.*

Damico: Fly Casting Clinic

Overhang: Matching your cast to your line

By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Casting tip #40



What is overhang and is it important?

When we do our casting clinics, I always learn a lot from participants. Handling different rods and lines is very revealing. There are literally hundreds of different fly lines. The head on a weight forward fly line eventually will join the thinner running line. The distance between the head and the rod tip while casting is called overhang. If the head on your fly line is 30 feet and it is a few inches outside of the rod tip you are well positioned to load the rod and make an effective cast because the weight of the head will pull the running line as you make your stop. Adding a 10-foot leader and fly means that you must carry 40-feet total with good casting form before making the cast. Make sure the line you are using is suited to your ability to accomplish your goal. Identify your head length and shape to help your casting.

Pat Damico, MCI, St. Pete Beach

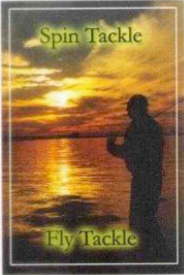
Bob Morrison: How-To

Quit snagging weeds

I sometimes have a problem with weighted flies sinking down into weeds where the fish cannot see them, a problem that is not always solved by a faster retrieve. One solution that I learned recently is to tie a foam strike indicator, surface popper or floating fly to my leader with a dropper tippet attached somewhere along the leader. The sinking fly is tied to the dropper in such a way as to allow it to swim just above the top of the weeds during the retrieve. This application is similar to the one that I have used successfully on freshwater trout streams, where I used a floating indicator or large dry fly, with dropper, to suspend a nymph just above the stream bottom in such a way as to prevent the nymph from getting stuck in the rocks on the bottom. I'll be experimenting with various arrangements and lengths of droppers, and will report my results to you. Try it yourselves and let us know what happens. Good luck.



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Favorite SFF member websites...

Suncoastflyfishers.com
www.floridawildlifemagazine.com
FloridaSportsman.com
Fishermanscoast.com
FlyFishinSalt.com
SaltwaterSportsman.com
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Earthnc.com/online-nautical-charts
SaltwaterTides.com
[Animated Knots by Grog](http://AnimatedKnotsbyGrog)
Tides4fishing.com
tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov/geographic.html

Members, got a good fishing website you want to share with other Suncoast Fly Fishers?
Email Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net

Fly Fisher Reflections

David Putnam: A Fly Fisherman Returns to Golf. Part II



Weary of being asked when returning home from all day fishing trips --“Did you catch anything?”—fly fishers long for a simple game like golf, and put all their fly fishing tackle away for good. Back to the rubber mats and practice balls. Why? What happened along the way?

Knots happened, for one thing, knots that come untied when a fish pulls on the line, leaving a little telltale curly-cue where the knot was...for everyone to see.

Nothing in golf calls for excellent close-up vision like knot tying. Old guy golfers don't have to wear special glasses on a string around their neck, or funny-looking magnifiers that clip to their fishing cap. A golfer who can see his feet and dress himself can play.

Fly fishermen are taught that bulky, poorly tied knots are bad for a variety of reasons. Small, proven knots are important to know. Dozens of websites and books teach knot tying because there are hundreds of knots and special techniques. Why fly anglers won't stick with a few of the basics and learn to tie them in all conditions including total darkness is beyond the scope of this writer, but I can report that I personally had a knot slip last week. (You, the reader, had better *not* approach me with your favorite knot as a solution...at least for a few more days. *I* failed, not the effing knot!)

A wonderful, proven knot isn't worth a s__t if it isn't tied correctly *every* time, and that's the essence of the problem. A knot that's simple to tie at a desk in your den, under a bright light and a magnifying glass, can be impossible to tie when it's windy where you're fishing, or the boat's lurching around, or if fish are suddenly biting, frothing the water within casting distance and excited hands are trembling, and your buddy has *another* fish on.

Knots slip and fail when they're stressed, which means when there's a big fish on the line. God never seems to care if it's the only fish of the day or the biggest fish anyone on the boat has ever seen. Saying things like, “Oh, Jesus, please don't let him get off!” fails as often as bad knots. He lets knots fail like he has hungry children, and after a while fly fishermen just don't want to do it anymore, and look back to golf.



Fly Over

Bill AuCoin: Fly Fishing, Once Over (very) Lightly



Vision and Values?

Thank you, Suncoast Fly Fishers, for presenting me with your 2013 Vision/Values award. As you might infer from the accompanying picture of the trophy, the recipient has an offbeat vision. (And values?) Still, very much, thanks. I really enjoy putting together *On The Fly* but the credit goes to all those who send in articles and pictures. The real vision and values in our club come from our officers and board members who give us so much of their time plus enthusiasm. It's like a full-time job for some...and they do it for free.

Capt. Rick Grassett, April meeting presenter

I'm really looking forward to the April meeting to learn from one of the best fly-fishing captains on the Gulf Coast. Capt. Rick Grassett is our presenter – he'll tie flies, too – and he'll speak to us about how to get ready for spring flats fishing on our coast. Rick has been guiding since 1990. He is an Orvis-endorsed fly fishing guide out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key in Sarasota. He fishes nearshore Gulf and lower Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor in his 17' Action Craft flats skiff. He also leads fly-fishers to places like Andros South bonefish lodge in the Bahamas, Turneffe Flats Lodge in Belize, and Crane Meadow Lodge in Montana. Check out his web sites, www.snookfin-addict.com and www.flyfishingflorida.net.

RIP, Doug Hannon

Doug Hannon, inventor and avid angler, died of complications from neck surgery. He was 66. Hannon owned nearly 20 patents for fishing equipment, including the weedless trolling motor propeller. Known as the "Bass Professor," Hannon caught and released more than 800 largemouth bass of 10 pounds or more. He fly-fished for bass with General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. ([Bassmaster](#))

Be Prepared



-30-