

On The Fly

December 2013 Volume 23, Issue 12

Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



The Don Coleman Classic. December 14 (Saturday). This is our grand finale outing of 2013. Make plans to attend and enjoy some great fishing, Alan's chili, some stories about Don Coleman and great camaraderie. Fort DeSoto is great for wading, kayaking and boat fishing. We will end a great year for SFF and also be joined by members from the Tampa Bay, Mangrove Coast, and Tarpon Coast Clubs. Lunch will start at noon at Shelter 10 or 11. You are welcome to bring your favorite side dish if you wish. See you Saturday.

Port Manatee Trip January 10 (Friday)

For those of you who signed up for the Port Manatee trip, we will meet at Port Manatee, 14495 Harlee Road, Palmetto, FL @ 9:00AM. (Phone 941-723-4505) Bring your lunch and beverage plus your fly fishing rod. Yes, we will fish.

SFF Christmas in January. Our January meeting will be the "Trash and Treasures" auction. During the Christmas holidays check through your fly fishing gear and identify a few treasures for the January meeting. This will give some new as well as older members a chance to pick up some "treasures". We appreciate the reel or rod you no longer use or any other functional gear. Alan will be the auctioneer and we plan to have plenty of fun.

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR. I wish to thank our officers, board members and all of you for all the contributions you made to make us the best fly fishing club ever. On behalf of the SFF Officers and Board (Kirk Burton, Ken Hofmeister, Paul Sequira, Karen Warfel, Alan Sewell, Tom Trukenbrod, David Putnam, Myron Hansen, Pat Damico, Mark Craig, and myself), we wish you a happy holiday.

Keep slack out of your lines and keep your loops tight!

Tom

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We are Suncoast Fly Fishers



Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) are dedicated to sharing their total fly-fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly-fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly-fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship, we help members become more skilled, have more fun, and be more productive in the sport. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations. Membership in SFF is open to all people.

SFF Club Calendar

- December 14, December outing. Fort De Soto Park. Don Coleman Memorial. Noon--Alan's award-winning chili will be served in Shelter 10. Welcome members from Tampa Bay FFC and Sarasota's Mangrove Bay FFC.
- January 10, tour FWC's research program at Port Manatee. Fly-fish protected areas. Gina Russo is FWC's show-and-tell guide from 10:00-11:00 am reviewing FWC's Stock Enhancement Research . After lunch (bring your own) those signed up will be invited to fish in the protected and productive flats of Port Manatee.
- January 16 meeting. Our annual *Trash 'n' Treasures* meeting. Bring functional gear to sell. Also bring money to buy things. This funds food and drink at outings and meetings. Fly Box Exchange.
- January 18 Outing – Blackthorn Memorial at I-275 rest area
- February 20 meeting. John Springer retired from the railroad in 2012 and is moving all about the country so he can fish as many trout streams as he can. He is a member of the Housatonic Fly fishing Association (motto: there's no tonic like the Housatonic.). Springer is coming at the invitation of our guy Dave Barson who knows and has fished with Springer on the Housatonic River in Connecticut.
- March 29, 4-8 pm, Hog Roast and Silent Auction, Treasure Island City Auditorium. Jeff Klinkenberg author and feature writer for the Tampa Bay Times is keynote speaker. Purchase tickets now at the meeting or mail a check. Use the form on the next page.

Monthly Meetings

Third Thursday of each month (except December) in the community center at Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26 Avenue N. St. Petersburg. Fly tying 6 to 7 pm. Meeting and program 7 to 8 pm.

[Mapquest link to Walter Fuller Park – go here.](#)



Suncoast Fly Fishers

11th ANNUAL HOG ROAST & SILENT AUCTION TICKETS

This is a must event for every SFF member. This is our featured club event of the year.

When: March 29, 2014 Saturday

Where: City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL

Time: 4:00 to 8:00 PM

Cost: \$20.00 please make your reservation early. You may bring guests also for \$20/person.

Teens 13-19 \$10.00
12 y/o and under free

Please purchase your tickets early so we can provide the caterer with an estimate of attendees.

Sign up at the meeting or make out your check to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and mail to:

Suncoast Fly Fishers
P.O.Box 40821
St. Petersburg, FL 33743

Attach this form to your check

Reservations for 11th SFF Annual Hog Roast & Silent Auction

Name: _____

Number of adult tickets _____ @ \$20.00/person Total \$ _____

Number of teen tickets _____ @ \$10.00/teen Total \$ _____

Final Total.....\$ _____

Pres. Tom Gadacz: It was a very good year

Dear Suncoast Fly Fishers,

This has been a great year for SFF. We had great speakers at our membership meetings. The casting clinics were phenomenal and we are getting better and better. Great sessions for beginners as well as those who are now double hauling. This is a phenomenal value you receive as a club and IFFF member. Local day fly-casting clinics would cost you \$150 per session. You are getting a \$300 superb casting experience for a total of \$50 (\$15 for club membership and \$35 for IFFF membership). In addition to the casting clinics and meetings, you have 11 outings with a great and healthy lunch.

Terry Kirkpatrick and John Craig are doing a fantastic job at Bay Pines Project Healing Waters. Alan Sewell and his crew of veterans are producing more rods than Sage. We had a kayak outing at Fort DeSoto with a group of veterans and a spectacular fishing outing at the Bradenton Yacht Club with veterans from Florida's east coast.

Marine Quest was another great success and thanks to Bill AuCoin for organizing the event and all of you who help the kids tie flies and talked to the visitors. We also had a booth at the Florida Sportsman show.

Many of you attended the Florida Council IFFF Expo and enjoyed a great time with various programs, fly tying and casting. Flip Pallot and Chico Fernandez told some great stories. Smitty demonstrated his blue-winged olive.

Bill AuCoin has produced many great newsletters and kept us informed on cutting edge fly fishing news.

Tom

News 'n Notes

Can you say **Gyotaku**? Tom Jones will help you say it...and do it. Watch here for session dates. What is it? [Go here.](#)

Suncoast Fly Fishers have been invited to compete in the **Mid-Coast Fly Fishers Invitational** in New Smyrna Feb. 7-8. Our contact is Dennis O'Brien. The Friday dinner is \$15. Saturday dinner is \$20. The Best Western has a deal on rooms, \$90.



Capt. Rick Grasset and Ed Hurst will lead the **Orvis-endorsed fly fishing schools** at CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key. Dates: Jan 18. Feb. 15. Mar. 8. Mar. 22. April 12. Email info@cboutfitters.com

Capt. John Hand has an old postmaster's desk (see photo) that he uses as a fly-tying desk. Neat. He's asking \$1200. If you're interested call him at 239-842-7778

Florida Council Fly Fishing Clubs

[Florida Council, International Federation of Fly Fishers](#)

[Florida Council, IFFF, Facebook](#)

[Backcountry Fly Fishing Association of Brevard](#)

[Backcountry Fly -Fishing Association of Orlando](#)

[Panhandle Flyfishers](#)

[Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club](#)

[Florida Big Bend Flyfishers](#)

[Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers](#)

[Mid-Coast Fly Fishers](#)

[Stuart Flyrodders](#)

[Sunshine City Anglers](#)

Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers

[Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples, Florida](#)

[Tri-County Fly Fishers](#)

[Fly Fishers of NW Florida](#)

[Charlotte Harbor Fly Fishers](#)

MEMBER PROFILE

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Capt. Pat Damico

Hometown(s): Lived in Bangor, Lansford and Hazleton, PA, where I had a family dental practice for 38 years after school and serving as a dental officer in the Navy.

When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers? **2000 or earlier**

What is your favorite gamefish to catch on a fly, and why?
Baby tarpon! Difficult to find and pattern. Exciting acrobatics.

What are your top three places to fly fish?

**Argentina
Montana
Wherever I am**



How and when did you get introduced to fly-fishing?

Reading magazines articles by Joe Brooks, A.J. McLain, Ted Trueblood, and having a neighbor who taught me to tie flies and fly fish in local Pennsylvania trout streams at about age 10.

Why do you like fly-fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle?

Encompasses an ever-increasing body of knowledge and challenges. Has introduced me to many great friends with similar interests that we share. Enjoy seeing the excitement and enthusiasm of others as their knowledge and abilities become more refined. As Lefty says, "It's one of the few sports where you get better with age."

Do you tie flies? **Yes**

What flies do you like to tie? **All of them, fresh and saltwater, especially new patterns that incorporate synthetic materials.**

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This member profile is the first of many we'll be running in On The Fly. All members new and old are invited to email us with their answers to these questions....along with a fishing photo, of course. Thanks. Bill AuCoin, editor...wmaucoin@verizon.net]

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR SFF MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all SFF members who have renewed their memberships for 2014. However, if you haven't renewed yet, please take the time to print and complete the renewal form below and bring it to the January 16, 2014 meeting with your cash or check or mail it to the address below. I will be pleased to receive your dues and record you as another happy and paid up member of Florida's finest and friendliest fly fishing club.

Paul Sequira, Treasurer

**TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013-2014
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND BRING IT TO THE
MEETING OR MAIL IT IN (P.O. BOX ADDRESS BELOW).**

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL APPLICATION

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. If you do not desire this information disclosed to members, please so indicate. The monthly newsletter, "On the Fly," is only distributed electronically. You may also obtain a copy from our web site:

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

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

- ___ Regular Membership 1 year - \$15 (*September 2013-14*)
- ___ Family Membership 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) - \$25
- ___ Business Membership 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) - \$100

Total amount due \$ _____. Please bring cash or a check payable to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and bring it along with completed application to next meeting or mail form and a check to:

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

Amount received \$ _____. Date received ___/___/____. SFF Treasurer _____

Leigh West's Big Fish Secret: WADE

By Bill AuCoin

If you want to catch big fish on the flats, get out of the boat and wade. Leigh West of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club made the point strongly as our club's November meeting speaker.

In Leigh's wade fishing world, fishing is about to get real good in the St. Petersburg-Tampa area. He is prepared to wade a lot, and wade long distances, too. He's printed tide-tables for his four favorite months for St. Pete area fly-fishing – December through March. Lower than low tides are a good thing.



Introduced by Capt. Pat Damico, Leigh started with this advice. Keep your gear portable so it's ready to go on short notice, in your vehicle or somebody else's. He packs quite a bit in his ready-to-rumble kit, including waders for every outing, winter or summer. He gets a lot of gear in his waterproof tray and the most important thing (besides flies and polarized sunglasses) are breathable waders and neoprene booties- with good insoles to keep the feet happy. As you might expect he wears waders in the winter when Tampa Bay water temps dip into the 60s. And he wears them in the summer when the water is warm because, as has been reported, that's when exotic, killer-style bacteria could be lurking.

His Scientific Anglers fly line is an invisible gray. His leaders are tapered fluorocarbon.

Pick Any Two

Happy fish are 60 feet away. The very biggest fish are sometimes 90 feet away. Perhaps we have some work to do? Leigh says every fly cast we make usually comes down to the Speed-Distance-Accuracy formula. Pick any two. If you have the time to make a good cast, then study the direction of the current and position of the fish so that your fly is presented to the fish naturally. Then he showed us the picture of a 9-pound south Florida bonefish that he was able to catch with a careful cast.

There are some Do Nots: Don't wade too deep. Don't be the blind following the blind. Don't fish bad tides or stagnant water. Don't wade too fast. Do fish with similarly experienced fishermen. Do your research like, you know, Google/Bing satellite views. Don't step on a sting ray or an oyster bar. Stay away from mucky bottoms.

And some Do's: Cover up. Use sunscreen and lip balm. Bring a first aid kit. Before you go to a fishing camp, buy trip insurance. And do bring realistic expectations. Sometimes the fish don't bite. Sometimes they do, and then they exceed expectations. Either way, you're a winner.

Tom Gadacz: Renzetti Fly Fishing & Rod Building Fair

Andy & Lily Renzetti, Frank Catino and staff hosted a the Renzetti Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair in Titusville on Dec. 7, a benefit for *Casting for Recovery* and *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing*.

Lefty Kreh, Jon Cave, Flip Pallot, Bob Popovics and many other well-known fly fishing heroes supported the event with casting, fly tying and lecture sessions. Lefty had two great fly casting sessions and several brave volunteers took center stage with personal lessons from Lefty.

It was a great time to see friends and get to know several other fly fishing enthusiasts and support two great programs (CFR-FL and PHWFF).

Ruth Stokes coached a group of budding women fly fishers and Dave Olson gave lessons in two hand fly - casting.

The Florida Council IFFF had a booth and promoted IFFF and Florida fly fishing clubs. Several SFF members attended including Jeff Heer, George Haseltine, Pat Damico and me.



Lefty Kreh was one of several major fly-fishing stars helping fair goers become better casters, tiers, and fly rod anglers.



Casting instructors Dave Olson and Flip Pallot



President Tom Gadacz and Jeff Heer of Suncoast Fly Fishers helped build recognition for the Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers and build awareness of the next big surge of growth of saltwater fly-fishing.



Fly Fishers Pat Damico, Larry Lurie, Dennis O'Brien and Tom Gadacz told compelling stories of the healing power of Project Healing Waters.

[More Renzetti Fly Fair photos on the next page](#)

Continued...Renzetti Fly Fishing & Rod Building Fair



Lily Renzetti of Renzetti, Inc. host of the fourth annual fair. Headquartered in Titusville, Renzetti makes fly tying vises, tools, accessories and rod building equipment.



Pat Damico, Dave Olson, Lefty Kreh, Guy Tillotson



Carolyn Chase, Ruth Stokes and Dianne Boswell. Stokes led a casting session for women new to fly-fishing.



Joe Mahler, patriotic fly-casting instructor



Left, Dawn Cummings and Amy Cavanaugh. Above, Olson, Ruth Stokes and Frank Catino

Pat Damico: Mazzarella's Casting Clinic a Huge Success

"Dayle and Barbara really worked to make this a huge success"

Daylight welcomed Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella Saturday morning, Nov. 23, as they were soon met with John Hand and Pat Damico to prepare for a full day of casting activity laying out an extensive course that Dayle has developed that is a work of art in itself.



Instructors Leigh West and Robert Fischer soon joined them and began registering, stringing rods and enjoying some hot coffee and donuts. Bob Gaulin from TBFFC, the host club for the event had drinks, fruit and lunch items ready for the day.

Dayle began promptly at 8:30 and using tactile as well as visual aids had everyone partnered up and casting their fly rods. By the time we had our lunch break everyone was much better prepared for fly fishing and ready to divide into groups for more individual attention from our instructors with topics like: distance casting, double haul, accuracy, mending lines, change of direction and casting in the wind. We were there until about 3 p.m.

Many old as well as new members shared the day and we all left with big smiles feeling a little sorry for anyone that used the beautiful day to go fishing instead.

Continued on next page



Continued...Mazzarella Picnic Island Casting Clinic

One of the highlights of the day was when we were joined by Joe Huynh, Nick Theochevalis and Brendon Cook members of the Pinellas Park High School Fishing Club and their teacher/moderator, Tom Reckenwald. This was the first time the students had ever held a fly rod. They had a great time and we enjoyed their company.

The boys are all now IFFF members and are invited to our fly club meetings. Seeing their enthusiasm for fly-fishing was a real highlight for all of us.

Thanks to all who helped the 25 attendees have a tremendous day. Special thanks to Dayle and Barbara who really worked to make this a huge success.

Pat Damico



Who Knew? Bass Love Jeff Heer's size-12 nymph fly



Bass Candy on Lake Carroll -- Jeff Heer caught the 23-inch bass (left) in June on this super tiny fly tied on a #12 hook.

That was not a stump you snagged, Jeff

My father-in-law took me out in his boat on Lake Carroll (Hillsborough County) this past June, and while he was after bass, I thought I'd give the bluegill a shot. Armed with a five-weight, five-piece rod sporting a 40-year-old Pflueger single action reel, I just knew the 'gills didn't stand a chance. Or so I thought. During the first half hour, we were unable to get a strike. We didn't see anything swimming - no bass, no panfish. Easing along and casting toward shore with a size 12 nymph fly I had tied years ago, I was about to make another cast when it seemed as though I had snagged a stump. When the leader moved sideways, though, I figured I had foul-hooked a big gar, or even one of the three-foot long grass carp commonly seen cruising the lake. The mystery fish headed from the open shallows to a patch of lily pads twenty yards away. I didn't think the hook would hold for long, even if the fish bypassed the pads, but I hoped to at least get a look at the beast. To my surprise, the fish stopped short and sulked on the bottom. I put as much pressure as possible on it, and it just stayed on the bottom (at six feet), only moving around in small circles.

**I figured I had foul-hooked a big gar, or even
one of the three-foot long grass carp commonly
seen cruising the lake**

After a few minutes it slowly rose to the surface, and I was shocked to see it was a decent-size bass! The bass disappeared deep, but quickly came back up, where it could be snatched & pulled aboard. We guessed it's weight to be six pounds or so, and after some quick pics it was put back. At 23 inches long, it was my biggest bass ever with a fly-rod...and on the smallest "bass fly" I've ever used. Go figure!

Jeff

Joe Corr: It chased my fly for ten yards and attacked it



Corr started to withdraw his fly to make a new cast but this 21-inch trout wouldn't let him do it.

I popped out yesterday for an hour to try one of my first tied flies and do a bit of double hauling. This guy chased my fly to the surface as I withdrew to cast, chased the fly for about 10 yards across the surface and then violently attacked it. This was at Point Brittany. The fish was 21 inches.

Joe

PS: I'm grateful for the time spent at the casting clinic in Picnic Park. The instructors were terrific and I've added real distance to my casting when it's needed.

Stephen and Betty Massey: Everglades Canal Bass

Thanksgiving 2013

Fishing the canals near Everglades National Park can be productive in "winter" too.

We had limited time to fish due to Betty taking care of her 93-year-old mother in Cutler Bay. But we were able to steal some time to fish and managed to catch a couple of bass before dark at a canal near Everglades National Park (Cole Center) outside of Homestead, Florida.

We will be going back in a month or so and we will photograph the equipment/fly in use.

Stephen



Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews



November 23 Outing - The Suncoast Fly Fishers joined with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for another outstanding casting instruction outing conducted by IFFF Master Instructors Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella. This outing was hosted by and lunch was provided by the TPFCC at Tampa's Picnic Island Park. This was another great turnout with close to 40 attendees. After the instruction, the outing included wade or kayak fishing from that location.

December 14, 2013 - Don Coleman Memorial Outing and Chili Feast. (Note date has changed)

This outing honors one of our parted members, Don Coleman. Don was one of the best fly fishers in the world. He wrote great articles on fly-fishing and was a premier fly tier. All new members of our club receive his publication, *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*. All of the local clubs around Tampa Bay will attend this outing. Our lunch will be served at noon at shelter #10 at the Fort. If this pavilion is not available we will eat at shelter #11. Chili will be the main course. Bring side dishes and desserts to fill out this lunch. Fish wherever you like, or just come to eat.

2013-2014 FISHING TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Suncoast Fly Fishers annual outing tournament standings

<u>Species</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bass	George Haseltine	19"	Lake Walsingham	April 16
Sunfish	Mark Hays	8"		
Trout	Mark Craig	22"	Tampa Bay	
Redfish	Mark Hays	23.5"	Tampa Bay	July 20-21
Snook	OPEN			
Ladyfish	Rick Warfel	17.5"	Fort De Soto Park	August

NOTE: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at the club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the legal size set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC).

Alan

Richard Oldenski: Recipe of the Month

Alan Sewell will prepare and serve his famous Game Day Chili at the Don Coleman outing at Fort De Soto Park December 14. Be at shelter #10 at noon or go hungry.

Alan Sewell's Game Day Chili

(This will be served at the Don Coleman Memorial Outing Dec. 14)

1 lb ground sirloin
1 lb ground sausage
1 onion fine chopped
3 garlic cloves mashed and chopped
2 16 oz cans chili beans, drained
1 16 oz can black beans, drained
3 8 oz cans tomato sauce
1 6 oz can tomato paste
1 large can tomatoes
16 oz beef broth
1 can dark beer
1 can green chili peppers
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
2 tbsp chili powder
2 cumin powder
2 tbsp ground red pepper
1 tbsp smoked paprika
1 tbsp Tobasco sauce

Instructions—Sauté meat with onion and garlic until browned. Add all ingredients, stir well and simmer or slow cook for several hours.

BONUS: Alan's White Chili

1 lb turkey meat, chopped or ground
1 onion chopped
2 cans navy beans, drained
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1 can green chili peppers
1 tbsp cumin powder
1 tbsp ground oregano
2 tbsp black pepper
1 tbsp white pepper
1 tbsp red pepper flakes
32 oz chicken broth

Instructions: brown turkey meat until done. Add all ingredients and cook on low or slow cooker for several hours.

Richard

Tying Bench – Frank Rhodes Bonefish Crab Tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith

This is a fly that was used by members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club when fishing for bonefish and permit in Mexico. It seems they weren't catching anything so the guide gave them a couple of these crab flies. One was a darker color. The other was the diamond crab. I'd fish the dark crab in darker, stained water or over turtle grass. I would fish the white one over sand flats. Basically what you do when you fish it you cast it out and strip it a little at a time. Once the fish sees it. STOP. That's what crabs do. Let it drop to the bottom. For reds, you might have to give it a twitch, just enough to get their attention.



Frank Rhodes Bonefish Crab tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith. Be sure to mash down the barb if your wife decides to wear it on her cocktail dress.

Materials

Hook	Gamakatsu S11 3H #2 (For large dark crab) – Mustad C70SD Big Game #4 (For small diamond crab)
Thread	Flat waxed nylon (white or grey)
Eyes	Melted mono eyes bent into “L” shape
Weight	.020 Lead wire
Body	Crinoline (Cut to shape)
Legs/Claws	Hen saddle (cut to shape)
Over coating	Tulip fabric paint (Diamond or Multi)
Finish	UV resin, Epoxy or SHHAN

Preparation

Body Crinoline must be cut into rectangles 1¼” x 7/8” for large and 1” x ¾” for small. Fold in half to maintain longest length; i.e. 1 ¼” for large or 1” for small. Cut into crab shape leaving about ¼” or smaller uncut in center of folded side (when opened out it will look like two crabs connected at the nose; if crabs had noses).

Claws Take hen saddle hackle and spray with fixative (Super 77 or the like; me, I just use my wife’s holding hair spray). Carefully cut tip off feather about ¼” down right at the stem. This will create the opening for the claw; then go down the stem to the size of claw you want and cut only the stem. Continue down the stem and cut the width of legs you want (2 Pair for each crab). They should have a “V” shape.

Eyes Take 20# monofilament line; melt end into small ball then coat with UV resin. Softex, Epoxy or SHHAN. Re-coat until you get size eye you want; make 2 for each crab; set aside to dry. Come down ¼” from eye and bend into “L” shape.

Continued on next page

Tying Bench, continued – Frank Rhodes Bonefish Crab As tied by Layne Smith

Tying Sequence

Step 1. Wrap a 3/8" base of thread in center of hook. Turn hook in vise hook point up.

Step 2. Trim "foot" of eye stem 3/8" long and flatten; remember you can't tie round to round. Tie in both eyes with feet facing each other on side of hook.

Step 3. Wrap on lead wire, about 10 to 12 turns, starting on outside of left eye stem and ending on outside of right eye stem. Proceed to over wrap lead with thread making sure to taper ends and ending with thread at hook bend.

Step 4. Place crab body onto hook making sure one side goes on top and the other side below hook shank and connected "nose" is placed between the eyes. Tie down the top and bottom points at hook bend and half hitch.

Step 5. Run thread between body halves to hook eye and half hitch there. Tie down top and bottom body points. Whip finish and cut thread.

Step 6. Fill cavities with CA cement; i.e. zap-a-gap or crazy glue (I use Loctite gel). Insert claws and legs in body gaps at appropriate places. Use a couple of alligator clips to compress body halves for 10 – 12 seconds to allow CA cement to bond.

Step 7. Remove clips and coat body (both sides) with fabric paint (be sure to fill in any body gaps around the edges.



Step 8. Set aside to dry.

Step 9. (Optional: Place crab in vise hook point up and dot with colored markers.)

Step 10: Once dots are completely dry, overcoat with UV resin, Epoxy or SHHAN.

Step 11. Set aside to dry one last time, if you used SHHAN or place on drying wheel if you used epoxy. Best case scenario ... if you used UV resin, just take it out of the vise and GO FISHING!!!

NOTE: This is a complicated fly. I will demonstrate the tying sequence and answer any questions at the Don Coleman outing in December. I will also be tying this fly for anyone that is interested before the beginning of the "Trash to Treasures" raffle in January.

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 48



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Why not get a practice partner?

Saturday, Nov. 23, we had an exceptional casting clinic lead by IFFF Master certified Fly Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella. One of his casting techniques gleaned from many years of teaching that proved highly effective is to have a practice partner. We all know trying to do something alone isn't as much fun or productive as having someone with similar interests at your side and sharing the enjoyment. We had some first time students that even together were quite accomplished by the end of the day. Many of our IFFF casting instructors get together frequently to critique and share information for our mutual benefit and to help our students. When preparing for my Master exam I would get together with a friend, Bill Whitebread, at two or three times a week to go over information

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Bob Morrison: How - To



More on the subject of releasing fish safely and humanely (or should that be "fishanely?")

When unhooking and releasing a fish, it's better not to touch the fish unless absolutely necessary. If you must handle a fish, use a glove designed for this activity, or at least wet your hand before handling the fish. Keep the fish in the water if possible, turning it over on its back. This move should calm the fish a bit. Use a pair of pliers to grasp the hook, or better, a pair of long-handled bent-nose forceps. These are my favorite, because they enable me to grasp the hook at the bend without damaging the body or wing of the fly.

When releasing a fish by hand, hold it upright in the water with one hand under the body and the other holding the base of the tail. Watch the gill movements to ensure that they are normal. When the fish has sufficiently recovered its strength, it should begin to struggle. At this point you can release the fish to swim away on its own. If you must drop a fish into the water, as from a boat, release it as close to the water as possible, minimizing shock.

Some more tips: Be careful when using any jaw gripping tools, taking care not to twist or bend the jaw. Such moves can damage the jawbones or muscles, preventing the fish from feeding properly. And DON'T bend the jaw down like those macho creeps in the TV bass tournaments, which can break the jaw completely. Secondly, keep your hands away from delicate gill rays, as well as sharp gill covers, which can cut you. Finally, don't lift a large or heavy fish by its jaw, which again can damage tissue.

Go get 'em, and good luck!

Bob Morrison

Mazzarella: Fly Casting-Fly-Fishing Instruction

The Five Essentials of Catching Fish Part 3...continued

By Dayle Mazzarella, IFFF Certified Casting Instructor



In my view there are five main components of catching fish with a fly rod.

1. Where are the Fish?
2. What are the Fish Eating?
3. **How Should We Present the Fly?**
4. How Should We Set the Hook?
5. How Do We Fight and Land a Fish? Anywhere, any place, any type of fish, if you want to be optimally successful, all five are essential.

Remember last month? (My friend hooked eleven fish.) One client was an okay caster, but lacked accuracy and mending skills; he hooked four fish. The other client was a poor caster with very limited skills; he hooked only one fish.

When we arrived at 8 am there were seven cars in the lot. When we ate lunch every car but ours had departed with the occupants making comments like, "Boy, they aren't biting today!" and "I don't think there are any fish in here!"

The difference was knowing where the fish were, what they were eating, and most importantly, how to cast to them. My clients were told *where* the fish were, and *exactly* what to fish with. They couldn't cast very well. My friend knew what to fish with, but had limited specific knowledge of the fish's locations, but despite this handicap, he hooked 11 fish to their five.

What casts should we know? Other than being able to dictate accuracy, I believe the following casts make up 90% of what we need to get to most fish: roll cast and roll cast to a pick up and shoot, double haul, some form of dump or slack line cast, and aerial curve casts to the left and the right. In addition, we must be able to cast reasonably well to all positions in a wind. I can't count the number of times a client is forced to cast into a head wind and is unable to do so. Paying \$450 for the guide to keep picking flies out of your shirt seems a little stiff to me.

Get some casting lessons and *practice*. You'll hook three times as many fish in many circumstances. If you want to catch more fish you need to learn to cast and present the fly better.

Next month we'll discuss *Setting the Hook*. My clients "hooked" a total of five fish - but for how long? Tune in next month.

Dayle Mazzarella, MCI

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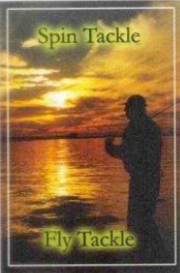
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David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections



And Don't Forget...

I heard that U.S. fishing magazines, starting January 1, will no longer accept photographs for publication that show female anglers wearing skimpy bathing suits when holding up their fish. It's about time, right?

And, it's time to stop trying to pull your flies loose once they're caught in the Vee of a big lily pad. As Florida Crackers say, "It will not come alosee." Break your line or make your way to the fly, cut it free, retie and move on. Ditto for hanging lures in nylon dock lines or stuck in wooden pilings. Time for a change. I lost a \$7 Mirrolure one night this past summer when the dock owner, who was sitting quietly enjoying a drink and a cigar, watched me hang my nine-hook plug in the 3/4-inch nylon line attached to his mega-foot yacht. He said, very firmly, "Leave it! I'll get it in the morning."

Getting mad at yourself and cussing and stomping around because you forgot to bring an important item, like, say, your tackle box, is childish, isn't it? Stop it! Every third guy at the ramp has left something behind, and you'll do it again, I promise you. It's as much part of fishing as catching small fish... or none. Personally, I make up a list the night before a trip then leave myself a note reminding me to locate the list and go over it before I leave home. This method is foolproof. Well, almost. You can read the list, see that you've left something out then forget to get it in your haste to depart.

Yet. I hollered and jumped around like an Arkansas clogger. How does that old Christmas ditty go, "makin' a list and checking it twice"?

After nearly sixty years outdoors in Florida I left the plug out of my skiff and backed it in the water just two weeks ago, and a while back my wife and I arrived at a beautiful mountain lake an hour from home in Colorado and took our kayak off the truck and put it by the lake. You guessed it. I'd left the paddles at home. It's never happened to you? ...Yet. I hollered and jumped around like an Arkansas clogger. How does that old Christmas ditty go, "makin' a list and checking it twice"?

Continued>>>

Continued...David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

Last summer at a Lake Okeechobee boat ramp I spent fifteen minutes trying to start my 15 hp hand-crank outboard, to the general amusement of two redneck fishermen nearby, funny guys. They asked me was that the way we do it in Sandusky, jes' keep pullin'? I was nearly exhausted when I discovered the problem: the emergency stop clip had come loose making it impossible to start the motor. Once I connected it the motor started right up and we all had a laugh. "Been there, done that," one said.

Those country boys at the ramp had fun teasing me about the fly-rods I put in the boat, asking what I was going to do with 'em, catch me a walleye? They had a passel of cane poles, and were heading to the same one-acre spot I was, planning to catch bedding shell crackers with worms. The fish were thick and my pal and I caught over a hundred apiece in a few hours on hand-tied flies, fishing a few hundred feet from the wormers. We waded; they sat in their jonboat. The wormers did well, too, but they had to stop and hook on another wiggler every time they caught a fish and they noticed that we were catching 'em faster than they were. We had our barbs mashed down for quick release, and we kept only a few fish for supper.

As I cranked the motor to leave--it started on the first pull-- they very respectfully hollered to us, "Whatchall usin'?" We motored over and handed them a few flies, which they promptly tied on their cane poles, then got overboard and started wading, slinging the fly out as far as they could, imitating our fly casting. As we pulled away they started catching fish. I'd bet that they bought a couple of cheap fly rods when they got back. They'll instinctively want those extra feet of distance a fly rod provides.

It's never too late to change your ways and try new methods to catch fish, even if the techniques come from a Sandusky Yankee.

I was just teasing about no more bikini-clad girls holding up fish. It is *the* reason I had a magazine subscription in the seventh grade.

Fly Over

Bill AuCoin: Fly-Fishing Once Over Lightly

Our December fishing event is Saturday, December 14, the Don Coleman Memorial with lunch at noon at Shelter 10 near the fort. Don't forget there is a \$5 entrance fee and also a launch fee for those putting their boats in the water. Only fish caught in the nearby waters of Fort DeSoto Park are eligible for the annual fishing tournament. Here are some useful links. Be sure to adjust the date on the tide chart. ([Tides for Egmont Key Channel](#)) ([Fort DeSoto Park Maps](#))



Top ten fly fishing videos. ([Fly Fishing in Salt Waters](#))

Fishing pictures from way-back-when. Actually, some of these pictures don't look so old. Or else, I am. Oh, right. ([Weather.com](#))

Considering a fly fishing kayak? Some like sit-on-tops. Some like sit-insides. Some like 'em long. Some like 'em short. Here's a comprehensive look at the issues. We report. You decide. ([Wayward Fly Fishing](#))

January 2013 -- Fishing was hot. If the seas are holding global warming heat, then one-year later it has been a good year for our game fish and the fishing in the St. Petersburg-Clearwater area in winter of 2014 is looking good for Suncoast Fly Fishers. ([Examiner.com](#))

Here's a video of Layne (Smitty) Smith tying **Lefty Kreh's bonefish fly** during the Florida Council's Fly Fishing Expo at Crystal River. ([You Tube](#))

Bluefin Tuna Petition. IGFA is sponsoring an online petition asking NOAA Fisheries to strengthen its current proposed rule by reducing longline bycatch and protecting bluefin spawning grounds. ([IGFA](#))



Orange Striped Rabbit

Breaking news: Smitty will be bringing a petition to the January meeting for everybody to sign. "WE HAVE TO STOP IT NOW," he writes. "We have already lost to extinction the fabled Blue Tiger Striped Rabbit ... Now it looks like we are down to only 500 pairs of the [Orange Striped Rabbit](#) ... Our club promotes conservation ... I think it only right the we as a club spearhead this project (especially the fly tiers in our Band of Brothers). "

(Arrgghh. Never enough fur. Never enough dubbing material. Life is so hard.)

Merries, happies, Bill AuCoin, Editor