

# On The Fly

June 2013 Volume 23, Issue 6

## Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers

**Special Program – our own Annie Hays.** The June membership meeting will feature Annie Hays who will give us her view of the Everglades. Annie has fished this area for years and is only a sophomore at St. Leo's College. Mark your calendar June 20. Come early to get a seat and turn in your shirt for our new logo.



**SFF Embroidered Shirts. LAST CALL!** Bring your shirt and \$10 (cost of the embroidering) to the JUNE meeting. Have the new SFF logo embroidered on your favorite shirt. If you already have a favorite shirt, get it washed and if you're looking for a new shirt, purchase it and bring it to the June 20 meeting. You may have as many shirts as you desire embroidered at \$10 per shirt. SFF will pay for the setup fee and the company charges \$10 per shirt. We have name tags and you will need to print your name on the tag and tie it to one of the button holes. We will plan to have another opportunity to get a shirt embroidered with the SFF logo in the fall.

**E. G. Simmons Fishing Camp.** We still need some help with the summer fishing sessions for youths at E. G. Simmons Park. There are four sessions (June 19, July 3, July 17 and July 31 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. E. G. Simmons Park is located at 2401 19<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Ruskin, FL 33570. Call 727-360-8030 or email me at thomasgadacz@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping. We will supply the rods, reels and equipment.

**Share Your Summer Fly Fishing Travels.** Many of us do some traveling to cooler spots during the summer and take any opportunity to find some nearby waters to throw a line. Share some of your out of town fly fishing experience with us and send an article to Bill AuCoin with maybe a few photos of your favorite places. We do need to know where you fished, what flies you used (and if they worked) and of course the fish you caught. If you are planning a trip out of town, let us know since many of the members are familiar with the streams and rivers in other parts of the country and even guide in places like Pennsylvania (Pat Damico) and Wyoming (Dayle Mazzarella). From my experience, it is best to get a guide if you have not previously fished the area, plan to fish in a drift boat or plan to fish some trophy streams. Several prime fly fishing areas are private and you can only get access through a guide but be prepared to pay a premium. That said, it is still difficult to beat the fly fishing opportunities in our own backyard (Ft. /DeSoto).

### Also in this issue of On The Fly

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

## On The Fly

June 2013 Volume 23, Issue 6

• News 'n Notes	3
• Alan's Reviews-Previews	4
• Ready Set Go-Hillsborough	5
• Grasset Flats Minnow	6
• Al's Glass Minnow	7
• Al's Review: Clear Cure Goo	8
• Alan's Review: Furled Leaders	9
• Tie-a-Thon photos	10-11
• Tom Jones' DIY Fly-Wheel	12-13
• Report: Andy's manatee	14
• Report: Mark's leader lesson	14
• Gadacz: Fort De Soto's 50 <sup>th</sup>	15
• Gadacz: Sage Rods	16
• Hofmeister: And daughter	17
• Project Healing Waters outing	18-19
• And a Vet's wife's letter	20
• Oldenski: Dehydration	21-22
• Damico: Casting Clinic	23
• Morrison: How-To Guru	23
• Mazzarella: Instruction	24
• Putnam: Poppers a ga ga	27-28
• AuCoin: Fly Over	29

# We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

## SFF Club Calendar

- June 20 meeting – Fishing the Everglades with Annie Hays. SFF Logo Shirts. Bring a clean fishing shirt to the June meeting and have an SFF logo embroidered on it. Just \$10. The June fly-box exchange features a floating fly with a dropper
- Saturday, June 22, Float and fish the Hillsborough River.
- July 18 Meeting – Richard Oldenski, MD, fly-fishing first aid and prevention
- August 15 Meeting – Fly Casting Shoot-Out with Robert Fischer
- September 24-28 – Int'l Fly fishing Fair, West Yellowstone, Montana
- October 18-19 – Florida Council, FFF, Expo, Plantation Inn, Crystal River



## 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 Liason—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

---

## Welcome New Members

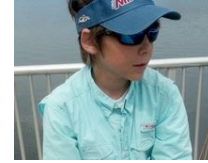
Suncoast Fly Fishers is now up to 123 members. Tom Tolrud sent us his picture and fly fishing bio for last months' issue. In this issue we're pleased to introduce Bill Hays and his son Adam and Miles Dearden.



Bill Hays

*My name is Bill Hays and I have lived here in the St. Pete area all my life. Unlike my brother Mark (whom I think most of you know), fishing had never been my passion and not something I did much of. Well, that all changed when my son Adam got "Hooked" on everything FISHING... At just 13 years of age, he has amassed quite an array of rods & reels, including 2 fly rods, a fly tying vise, 3 tackle boxes... In short, his room is starting to look like an Orvis ad... So I joined the SFF Club to fuel Adam's passion for the outdoors, to re-connect with my brother, and to develop my own love for this sport/art-form called Fly Fishing.*

*Take Care, Bill Hays*



Adam Hays



Miles Dearden

Miles Dearden writes, "Bill, I am recently retired and looking to re-learn how to fly fish. I haven't caught a fish on fly since I was 14, catching bass and bream in South Florida lakes.

**New to the club?** Tell other members about your interest in fly-fishing. Email the editor with your fly fishing bio, 25-50 words. Email a picture to Bill AuCoin, [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net)

**Oops...** Observant members have pointed out that the item in the May issue about the August 15 meeting's *Shoot Out fly casting competition* was wrong, wrong, wrong. We'll be competing for accuracy at 20 30, 40 and 50 feet, not yards.

## June 20 Meeting

- Fly Fishing the Everglades with Annie Hays. Her slide presentation and talk is entitled Fly Fishing the Everglades. Be there or be.....hmmmmmm?
- Mark Hays will tie flies
- Fly Swap – Tandem Rig. Participants will tie three of their favorite tandem rigs and swap them for three for somebody else's three tandem rigs. Contact Myron Hansen for details.
- Last chance -- Logo Shirt Special. Bring a ten-dollar bill and a clean shirt to the June meeting. You'll get your shirt back with the new SFF logo embroidered on it.
- The club has reprinted *Wading the Saltwater Flats*, by Don Coleman. Only \$5. Free to new members.
- New SFF fly boxes are here, just \$5. Free to new members.
- Volunteer sign-up to help teach fly fishing and casting to kids at Simmons Park July 3, 17 and 31.

## Big Fish Awards

Alan Sewell presented Tom Hummel (far right) with his trophy for the largest speckled trout caught in the 2012-2013 tournament. George Hazeltine caught a 19" bass in Walsingham Lake. Tip you SFF caps.



## Future Events

- Int'l Fly Fishing Fair, Sept. 24-28, West Yellowstone. MT
- Florida Council Expo, Oct. 18-19, The Plantation, Crystal River

## Gummi Body Giveaway

Tom Jones writes: "I have more Gummi Body fly material than I can use ... and would be glad to share some of it. Call me if you're interested."



## Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews

### ***MAY 18TH, 2013 - Urban Outing***

Our May outing was what we call our "Urban Outing" since it was held in downtown St. Petersburg. We fished between Demons landing and Coffee Pot Bayou. The grass flats out from the swimming pool held the most fish. Many trout were caught and released...or broken off. We decided to change the prize. Instead of the longest redfish (which we seem unable to catch on an outing), the award is for the longest trout. The weather was good for fishing, and our members were rewarded with another great day of fishing, fun and food. It is always rewarding to fish and then eat. This downtown area is a really good place to fish most of the year unless an east wind is blowing in your face.

### ***June 22nd, 2013 - Hillsborough River Float and Fish***

Our June outing is another of the SFF fun trips that we try to go on at least once every year. We will be floating down the Hillsborough River enjoying the scenery and fishing for bass and bream. Lunch will be served at Trout Creek Park around 1:00 pm. This gives members a chance to paddle and fish without trying to beat the clock for lunch. Our prizes will be for the longest bass and longest bream. All of the parks on the upper Hillsborough River are designed for easy launching of kayaks or canoes. Morris Bridge Park even has a small boat ramp. Members can launch from Morris Bridge Park and float to Trout Creek, about two hours of just floating, or launch from Sergeants Park and float to Morris Bridge Park, another two hours of just floating. (See Park descriptions in another article). This is a great trip to invite your family and friends for a river adventure.

<b>2013-2014 FISHING TOURNAMENT UPDATE</b>				
<i>Suncoast Fly Fishers yearly tournament starts now</i>				
<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"	Lake Walsingham	April 16
Trout	Mark Craig	22"	Tampa Bay	May 18
Redfish				
Snook				
Ladyfish	Mark Craig	17"	Tampa Bay	May 18

## **Ready Set Go: Hillsborough River Float 'n' Fish**

---

Sewell: Here's where to launch, where to fish, where you'll eat, and how you'll get back to your car.

Our outing includes the stretch of river runs from Hillsborough River State Park on highway 301 to Rotary Park on Fowler Avenue. This is about 23 miles of water. You and your guest can do all of it...or part of it. Or just show up for lunch at Trout Creek Park. You're welcome.

You can access the river from Hillsborough River State Park, Dead River Park, Sergeant Park, Morris Bridge Park, Trout Creek Park or Rotary County Park. Here are your choices:

### **Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter**

- Dead River Recreation area to Sergeants Park, 4.2 miles. Dead River Park is south of Hillsborough State Park on Highway 301. **Do not** paddle above Dead River Park. This is called the "17 Runs" area and is a very confusing area to navigate with its maze of small branches. The sign says, "Abandon hope all who enter here."
- Sargeant Park to Morris Bridge Park, 4.3 miles. Sergeants Park is on 301.
- Morris Bridge Park to Trout Creek Park, 4 miles. Morris Bridge Park and Trout Creek Park are on Morris Bridge Road.

The runs from Sergeant Park to Morris Bridge or from Morris Bridge to Trout Creek Park are the better options, in my opinion. These areas are traveled by paddlers and are kept free of obstacles, have plentiful wildlife, and are easy paddles. You can see alligators, wading birds, deer and, sometimes, wild hogs. You may even see otters playing.

The river is under a tree canopy most of the way. The area around Morris Bridge Park is open and there is at least one mile of open water for fishing around Trout Creek Park. Across from this park is Trout Creek. It is a good place to explore and really feel like you are back in time.

The club will be providing shuttle trips back to your vehicle if you come alone. Also, members with extra craft need to share with members that do not have a craft. Lets all show up and make this the best outing for the summer. **Alan Sewell**

### **The Mark Hays Hillsborough Insider**

Fishing the Hillsborough River is always a crapshoot. If too much rainfall raises the river level into the tree line, fishing can be tough, not to mention fishermen and women paddling around in the forest. Remember Florida sunfish avoid strong current whenever possible. Under prime conditions, i.e., slow current, small poppers - any color - #6 or 8 will work well for bass and larger bluegills. For more action a #10 or 12 foam spider is the best. Some days when fishing is slow, a small #10 Clouser or woolly-bugger will be a better choice. If all else fails, then take a large, snook size (4 to #1) streamer and fish one of the large holes. You will recognize these by the slower current and observing fish rolling and gulping air. These are gar and can really add some entertainment to a slow day. Ask Woody Miller about pulling one into the kayak with you for a little "lap dance." Use caution and long pliers. Have fun. **Mark Hays**

## Tying Bench - Grasset's Flats Minnow, by Capt. Rick Grasset

---

I developed this fly, which is in the [Orvis](#) catalog, for fishing shallow grass flats for reds, snook and trout. It can be fished like a crustacean or a minnow with a wider profile. It is lightly-weighted so you get a jigging-like action. This fly is light enough to be used for tailing reds on a thick grass bottom. It can be tied in a variety of colors. My favorite color is olive, but I've also had success with black, white, tan, root beer and pink. I usually make the wing match the body; I still use white bucktail for the belly and gold Flash-a-bou in the wing. You may or may not want to use peacock herl with the other colors, but I usually do.



*Rick ties the fly in several other colors, typically olive. A couple of these are tied with DNA HoloFusion material for the wing and the others are with bucktail.*

### Materials

Hook	#2 or #4 Mustad 34007
Thread	Chartreuse
Eyes	Gold bead chain (med) on #2 hook. small gold bead chain eyes on #4 hook
Body	Olive Ice Chenille or Estaz (medium size)
Wing	White and olive bucktail, gold Flash-a-bou
Topping	Peacock herl (optional)
Weed guard	20 or 25-pound Orvis Mirage fluorocarbon (for weed guard)

### Tying Sequence

Step 1: Bend hook slightly  $\frac{1}{4}$  way down shank from hook eye (be careful to not bend too much)

Step 2: Tie bead chain eyes at bend of hook shank on top of the shank (fly rides hook up like a Clouser, so bead chain eyes are on the side of hook opposite the point).

Step 3: Wrap thread back to bend of the hook and tie on olive ice chenille or Estaz. Wrap forward to just in back of bead chain eyes and tie off.

Step 4: Tie wing of white bucktail, followed by 6 or 8 strands of gold flash-a-bou (doubled over), then olive bucktail and top with 3 or 4 strands of peacock herl. Wing should be about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the #2 hook and 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or 2" on the #4 hook.

Step 5 Add weed guard of 20- or 25-pound test Orvis Mirage fluorocarbon. The finished weed guard is 2 strands of 20 or 25-pound Orvis Mirage fluorocarbon that extend just short of the point of the hook. Start by crimping a short piece of leader material into a "V", tie across shank of hook just behind the eye of the hook and then cut to the appropriate length.

Step 6: Finish fly by coating head of fly with Flexament.



## Tying Bench - Al Pitcher's Glass Minnow (AGM)

---

There are probably as many glass minnow fly patterns as there are fly fishermen or fisherwomen. This pattern is one that I tie using Unique and Supreme Hair. These materials are very durable, which lends itself to not only trout, redfish, and snook, but to the toothy species such as Ladyfish and Spanish Mackerel.



### Material

- Hook: Mustad 3407 size #2 or #4; I prefer the #4
- Thread: Danville's Flat Waxed Nylon (various colors) 210 Denier and Monofil .004; I use Monofil to tie in the material because it takes up much less room than conventional thread.
- Body: Unique and Supreme Hair in various colors to "match the hatch". I usually use two-four colors such as white, yellow, tan, and blue.
- Eyes: 1/8" or 3/16" Flat Stick On; either Silver Prism or yellow
- Flash: Hedron's Lateral Scale Pearl and Fire Fly Skirt, and Spirit River's Glass Mylar Motion
- Glue: Head cement, Hard as Hull, and Clear Cure Goo

### Tying Sequence

Step 1: Starting at the hook eye lay down a base of Monofil back about half way along the hook shank; brush with a little head cement.

Step 2: All materials will be tied on the top of the hook shank using Monofil. Begin tying in the first color of Unique Hair which is usually white for the belly. The finished minnow will be about 2"-2 1/2". However, you can tie longer than that and trim later.

Step 3: A little ahead of the first material tie in the next color; do the same thing with each color allowing room to form a head at the end. A little practice will let you know where to begin and where to end.

Step 4: Next tie in, on top, three or four strands of Hedron's Fire Fly Skirt or Spirit River's Glass Mylar Motion making sure to allow the flash to extend beyond the body. If it ends up too long, you can trim later.

Step 5: Next tie in the Hedron's Lateral Scale Pearl; one tied on each side. Form a head with the Monofil and tie off.

Step 6: Next take the Danville Flat Waxed Nylon thread and complete the head. Since the Monofil is clear, the nylon thread will allow you to add color to the head. I use red, orange, and tan.

Step 7: Add the stick on eyes just behind the head. Secure the eyes and other material with the Clear Cure Goo insuring that you spread it about 1/4" behind the eyes. By extending the Clear Cure Goo behind the eyes, will help to secure the various materials on top. Take your time insuring that you have everything the way you want it; there is no hurry with Clear Cure Goo like there is with other epoxy.

Step 8: Once all the materials are just the way you want them, use the blue light to harden the material; about five to ten seconds is all it takes to harden the material. Because the Clear Cure Goo leaves a little tacky feel once hardened, I coat it with Hard as Hull or head cement.

## Product Review: Clear Cure Goo

Secure eyes. Form heads. Cure 'em fast



By Al Pitcher

I have been using the Clear Cure Goo (CCG) -- Thick, Thin, Hydro, and Brushable -- for about four months, certainly not a long time, but long enough to have formed a few opinions regarding these products. As with any epoxy-type product there are going to be few positives and a few negatives.

There is no doubt that the CCG kit makes securing eyes, forming heads, and curing the product extremely simple and fast. The product cures in 7-10 seconds using the UV light. Also, the quick cure allows the ability to hold materials in a specific position while the UV light is applied. There is no longer the hurry up to finish, then quickly placing the fly on the rotating wheel, before the product begins to sag, and then waiting for the epoxy to cure. All of this is certainly a positive.

The main negative could be the price because most fly tiers already have a rotating wheel. However, if you are new to fly tying, then this may not be a negative for you. The initial kit is \$49.99 and includes a Pro UV Light, two 10ml syringes of the CCG; one thick and one thin, and two applicator tips.



The CCG product cures crystal clear and very hard and does not yellow over time as many epoxy products do. However, the CCG product, once cured, continues to have a tacky feel. The CCG folks have another product called Hydro Clear Cure Goo that when applied and cured with the UV light is supposed to make the CCG product tack free. In my opinion the product does not work, as advertised, and is way too expensive at \$22.00 for an 18ml bottle, one brush bottle top, one applicator top, and two fine tips. I have found that a coat of head cement or Hard as Hull takes away the tacky feel.



The initial kit is \$49.99 and includes a Pro UV Light, two 10ml syringes of the CCG; one thick and one thin, and two applicator tips.

The CCG *Thin* produces a smoother finish, soaks into material more than the *Thick* and is better for smaller flies. The *Brushable* is convenient when using EZ Body or securing eyes on small flies.

I really enjoy the quick cure aspect of the CCG products and plan on using it for my epoxy needs. If you like to experiment with different tying products, as I do, check out CCG's various products at their website: [www.clearcuregoo.com](http://www.clearcuregoo.com). If you decide to give CCG a try, visit our local fly shop, Tampa Bay on the Fly, or give Enver a call at: 813-443-0660 to see what CCG products he has in stock.



## **Product Review: Furled, Tapered Leaders**

---

Sewell: They're better but cost \$\$\$\$. Or, you can make your own

By Alan Sewell

I decided to back up my fly fishing tackle and head for one of North America's best places to fly fish. That of course would be the southern tip of Pinellas County, Florida.

I am using my Sage Xi3 \$775 rod. I have my Sage 8000 reel, \$800, loaded with Scientific Anglers Sharkskin GPX line, \$99.95, filled with \$25 worth of backing, only because I could not find a more expensive backing when I loaded the reel.

I finally learned that if I had a nine-foot leader with a nine-foot rod and my arm was extended with thirty feet of line out of the tip, I could almost make a 50-foot cast. My clothes were professional fishing attire and my tackle was the best, but when I made that 50-foot cast, my fly fell three feet short and two feet to the left of my line tip. What was the problem? Was my shirt the wrong color? No, it was actually my leader.

Let's back up to the beginning of this story. No one needs to spend that amount of money for fly tackle. For \$250 you can go fly fishing with everything you need, except a good leader.

Fly-casting is the art of a fly line delivering a lure on the end of the fly line. This casting is pure physics. The line travels forward with energy and when it reaches its end, it causes the leader to turn over and drop the lure in the water.

Leaders are like flies in price. You can spend up to \$5.00 for a fly and over \$5.00 for a tapered leader. A leader is tapered from a heavy end to a smaller end. This is what turns over the fly. But why not tie you own?

Buy leader wheels of line in 50, 40, 30, and 20-lb test. Spools are very inexpensive and contain 50 yards of line. If you want a 9-foot leader, for rods 6 - 8 weight, tie 4 feet of 40-lb, 3 feet of 30-lb, and 2 feet of 20-lb. For 9 - 12 weight, tie 4 feet 50-lb, 3 feet 40-lb, and 2 feet 30-lb. Put a loop on the end of your fly line and a loop on the end of the leader. Slip knot the leaders together and go fishing.

**This is an easy method for leaders, but not what I use.  
I now use furled, tapered leaders on all of my reels.**

You really do need to make these yourself because over the counter they can cost \$13 to \$17 dollars each. The biggest advantage of twisted leaders is the turnover you get. Complete leader extension means a longer cast which always ups your odds.

When the leader stretches to its full length, you have immediate tension on the fly on the first strip. No longer do you need to make 4 or 5 strips just to get the fly moving. This leader turns over large flies easily and drops the fly where you want it to land. The leaders will outlast a regular leader 20 to one. This leader has great shock absorption and always lays straight when pulled off the reel.

There is a very easy method to construct this leader, and it can be done in about 10 minutes. I am not going to tell you in writing how to do it, but if you go to YOU-TUBE and enter furled fly fishing leaders, many sites will appear. All are easy, but look for the one showing a fisherman using an electric drill for twisting the leader. I use 15-lb for 3-6 weight rods, 20-lb for 7-9 weight rods, and 30-lb for 10+ weight rods. You make them the length you want. I use 2 - 3 feet length of tippet on the end of the furled leader to give me my 9 feet. Make one, and you will make more. Now go catch some fish.

## **May Meeting Report: Tie-a-Thon**

Some of our club's best fly tiers show us their tips, tricks and talents



Photos by Tom Gadacz and Bill AuCoin



*Tom Jones demonstrated his epoxy-dryer, a flywheel he made at home. See page 12*



*Toni Fernstrom tied several flies starting with the Rusty Rat, a classic American salmon fly, tied on a size 1/0 hook.*



*Layne (Smitty) Smith (left) tied one of the stars of his saltwater array, the Golden Eye Shrimp. Al Pitcher, right, tied Al's Glass Minnow, using items from the Clear Cure Goo kit, which he reviews in this issue. He provides tying instructions on the Tying Bench; see Al's Glass Minnow in this issue.*

## May Meeting Report: Tie-a-Thon

---



*Bob McIntyre ponders ingredients for his next fly.*



*Charlie Most writes, "It's just a simple bend-back pattern. I like to tie in barred, veiling feathers on each side. These things ride upside down and will come through grass beds without snagging."*



*Bob Morrison threatens the editor. He writes..."I cannot accept any responsibility for the disastrous drop in readership that On The Fly will suffer once the readers see the picture of this wizened, shriveled, skeletal, shrunken old fossil from the Cretaceous Period, something that even Tyrannosaurus Rex would not have eaten, even if it were served with Sauce Mornay and sauteed truffles. Take warning, I beg you. Sincerely, Bob Morrison*



*Some serious students matriculated at the Toni Fernstrom fly-tying academy.*



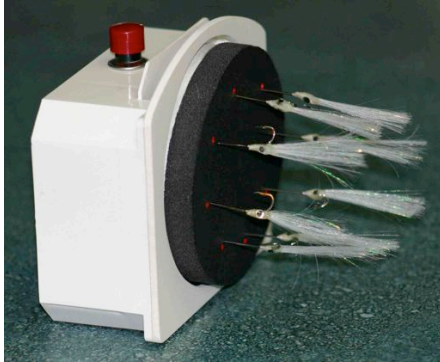
*Mark Craig and Miriam Craig follow Al Pitcher through the steps of tying Al's Glass Minnow. .*

## DIY: Epoxy-Drying “Fly Wheel”

---

You can do it. Tom will help.

By Tom Jones



*The foam rubber wheel on this machine is designed for flies tied toward the bend in the hook. For flies tied close to the eye of the hook, other configurations are possible (i.e., a thicker foam rubber wheel or a taller base).*

I've been coating the heads of my flies with epoxy for a couple of years, now, and have found them to be very practical for two important reasons. First, it encapsulates those little stick-on hologram eyes and makes them really sing in the reflection of the sun or the dock lights. Second, the epoxy makes them very durable. I can use a single fly with an epoxy head for an entire fishing day. The fish simply can't cut the head thread. One really good night I caught 10 keeper trout on the same fly and reused the fly several times on subsequent trips.

At first, when I started putting epoxy heads on my flies, I didn't mind having to twirl them by hand for a couple of minutes to keep them from sagging into an unwanted shape. But, before long, I found myself wanting to do two at a time so that I could mix a double batch, saving the mixing time and the twirling time. That gave me the fuel for my quest to have a motorized flywheel to do the twirling for me while I tie more flies.

I found one online for about \$40 but it looked so simple, and I'm such a die hard do-it-yourselfer, that I had to try to build one. So, I bought a tiny motor at Radio Shack, thinking that a big pulley and a rubber band for a belt would be enough to slow down the little speedster—it wasn't, and engineering and building a gear box sufficient to get the 20 rpm's I wanted was just more work than I was willing to contemplate. After poking around the Internet and stumbling upon the proper terminology, I searched for a “gear motor” and found one that looked like it might just work. It was a battery-powered motor designed to wave an arm on a point of purchase display. And it was only a little over \$4. Well, you know I ended up spending about \$10, with the shipping.

*Continued on next page>>>*

Continued...

## **Tom Jones DIY: Homemade Epoxy-Drying Fly Wheel**

---

The gear motor came in a plastic case, complete with battery compartment for one D-cell and is meant to work for weeks on one battery. I took off the arm-waving mechanism which left a large flat gear, just perfect for mounting a homemade disc fabricated from a sheet of 1/4" thick extruded PVC. To that disc I added a layer of 1/2" thick foam rubber to hold the flies. I installed a Radio Shack on/off switch which also allows me to momentarily activate the wheel by pushing the button down partially (i.e., if I want to rotate the fly a 1/4 turn at a time while I add epoxy). Or, to keep the wheel running I can fully depress the button. My machine looked a bit unfinished so, although it wasn't necessary, I made a faceplate to cover the small amount of the open box that wasn't covered by the wheel.

My homemade Fly Wheel works very well and I'm thoroughly enjoying mass-producing my favorite flies while my new little helper does the monotonous work of twirling the epoxy heads for me. I hate to admit it but I can tell, already, that his work is more consistent than mine.

With the exception of the gear motor and the on/off switch, I have enough material leftover



to make several more Fly Wheels. If anyone wants to build a Fly Wheel, you are welcome to take advantage of my home shop, which has all the equipment and leftover material you need. Just buy the motor and switch and let me know when you'll be over. Contact me at [727-667-4112](tel:727-667-4112) or [tomstpete@ij.net](mailto:tomstpete@ij.net)

[FOOTNOTE FROM TOM: I finally found a non-yellowing clear epoxy. It's called Z-Poxy. To eliminate tiny bubbles I roll a round toothpick back and forth across the puddle of the two parts of the epoxy, lifting the toothpick at each end to put it on the other side of the puddle for at least a minute., then carefully lift up just enough to apply to one side of the fly at a time.]



## Report: A Lesson Relearned the Hard Way

### Mark Craig at the Urban Outing in downtown St. Pete

North Shore Park, 6:30am, Al Pitcher, Alan Sewell, and myself met to fish the Urban Outing. We rigged our gear, yaks and shared a couple laughs and headed out. We all started out in the same



direction but we took very different paths. I figured I would paddle out to the bar and let the wind blow me towards the shore, not a bad drift. I started off with casting practice (no bites), drifted awhile, made another cast and like a freight train rod tip down. Fought it and much to my surprise it was a 22-inch trout! Not your typical two head shake then the give up. I started fishing again, WHAM a 17-inch ladyfish! Here's where the lesson begins. Just being a little lazy I guess, with a **frayed leader** made a couple more casts and again, WHAMO! I could tell right away this was a real nice fish. He put up a nice fight! Again, not the typical trout, it was a hard, hard fight! Got the fish to the Kayak, almost got a leader touch. I think the fish just came up to flip me off. He made another dive into the grass (the lesson) the **frayed leader** broke and I popped him right off! By far the biggest trout for me on a fly rod, at least 26-inch! The lesson is - retie, retie, retie! Definitely a good outing! *Mark Craig*

## Report: Simmons Park redfish. And a manatee?

Andy Constantinou had a “very eventful morning”



On a beautiful morning in May Andy was fishing Tampa Bay near Simmons Park. He said he “managed to get a nice 24-inch redfish on a fly that Leigh West gave him. He also caught catfish and a lizard fish. And then he sent another email. He wrote, “I forgot to mention this. I did not know manatees took flies. I saw some movement on the water and cast in front of it and I felt a tug. I started to play what I thought was a very large fish. You can imagine my shock when the nose of a manatee surfaced with the fly in its mouth. I pilled hard on the line and managed to recover my fly. I was using a green fly that the manatee must have mistaken for a bit of weed. Fortunately no harm done. A very eventful morning. *Andy Constantinou*”

# Fort De Soto County Park Celebrates 50 Years

## Suncoast Fly Fishers help mark the occasion

Article and photos by Tom Gadacz

Saturday, May 11 Fort De Soto Park celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and SFF helped mark the occasion with a booth and demonstrations at the site of the Old Fort. Mark Craig, Toni Fernstrom, Tom Gadacz, Ken Hofmeister, Alan Sewell, and Tom Trukenbrod tied flies, demonstrated fly casting, and told a few fly-fishing stories.

The event started at 9:00 AM and lasted most of the day. The celebration was sponsored by *Friends of Fort De Soto* and Monica Craig coordinated the volunteer groups. There were several other conservation and preservation groups and even a karate club. Bandstand entertainment kept the music going most of the day.

The day started off with a presentation of the colors by a Boy Scout troop. We set up our table in the shade. Toni was our fly tier and the rest of us took turns teaching fly-casting. We used our club rods including a youth fly rod that we received thru a grant from *Fish Florida*.

Alan set up a casting skills station with a hula-hoop at 30 feet and markers at 40, 50, and 60 feet. We had a group of 20 or more youngsters who acquired some casting skills. Some adults also picked up a few casting pointers from Mark Craig. Volunteers kept us well supplied with cold water and at noon hot dogs, chips and Gatorade were available. Alan kept asking for ice cream but the closest they could come was snow cones.



*Above, Learning the basics of fly casting with Mark Craig. Top right, Presentation of Colors by the Boy Scouts of America. Bottom right, Toni Fernstrom tied flies. Tom Trukenbrod and Alan Sewell (pictured) along with Ken Hofmeister and Tom Gadacz helped interested fishers, youngsters and adults, learn the basics of fly casting.*

## Report: Sage Factory Tour, Washington State

---

SFF President Tom Gadacz watches Sage build its fine fly rods

### Article and photos by Tom Gadacz

On Bainbridge Island in Washington State is the Sage Rod manufacturing facility. Visiting relatives in Seattle gave me a chance to schedule a tour at this facility.

Steve Greist took me through the plant to see how fly rods are made. Steve has been with Sage for over 25 years and is involved in the development of fly rods. We started at the station where extremely fine graphite filaments are bonded to a resin. The fibers are compressed and arranged with fibers of different properties to produce a range of rods. Stronger, lighter rods require more costly graphite fibers.

Once the initial graphite composition is determined the huge sheet of graphite is cut into very precise sections which will form the rod. The cut sheets are then attached to a mandrel, a steel tapered rod. The graphite pattern is pressure rolled around the mandrel forming a blank. It is then tightly wrapped with a polypropylene film to hold in place.

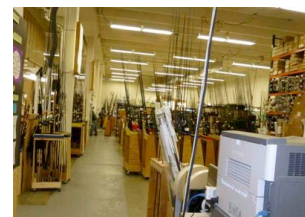
They are placed in an oven and heated for several hours to bind the fibers with the resin. The film is stripped off the blank and then lightly sanded and sent off for the finishing processes of cleaning and painting.

The rod is removed from the mandrel and cut into sections with perfectly matching male and female ends. Much of the process is directed by machines but at certain stages a skilled employee physically and visually checks each rod. It is a great combination of manufacturing technology with the art of expert human evaluation.

Assembly of the rod proceeds with cork handles which are now manufactured elsewhere, the reel seat and the tip top. The rod is marked for location of the guides. The guides are wrapped with thread and epoxy applied to secure the guides.

The rods are placed in a large revolving heated bin for final curing of the epoxy. After a final check each rod receives an identification number and is packaged for shipping.

The factory has a very friendly atmosphere with dedicated workers. There are many details in the process as well as testing new materials. Sage uses many consultants and extensive field testing to develop its array of rods. If you are in the northwest and visiting in Seattle, take the Seattle-Bainbridge Island ferry to 8500 Northeast Day Road. Call ahead to schedule a tour, 206-842-6608. You can take a mini tour online at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Roqkr8\\_Bg00](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Roqkr8_Bg00)



*Left, graphite filaments are bonded and cut. Middle, stock of mandrels for different models. Right, rod models in various stages of assembly, finishing and packaging. Note: photos by Tom Gadacz with permission from Sage Rod Company.*



## Report: North Fork of the South Platte

Ken Hofmeister and daughter  
Janell land big rainbows in  
Colorado

Janell, my daughter, and I had a big day in May casting to and landing big rainbows and browns fishing out of Boxwood Gulch on the North Fork of the South Platte. We were using six weight rods and casting Prince and Indian Warrior flies tied on size 18 hook. My camera was five pounds heavier by the end of the day. Whattaday!



*A Double – Memories are made of this*



*Our guide, Tim Schoenborn, was amazing. Contact him at [marcy5280angler@gmail.com](mailto:marcy5280angler@gmail.com), 303-862-2443*



## Report: Project Healing Waters, Palmetto, Florida

Our club helps veterans feel the healing power of fly-fishing

Article and photos by Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers and President, Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers

*This event would not have been possible without the contributions of the captains and volunteers and the members of the Bradenton Yacht Club. We wish to thank all those involved in this event and to the many veterans who served to preserve the freedoms of our country. To them we owe our greatest THANKS!*

Military veterans had a great time fishing the waters off Palmetto, Fla., May 18, at the second Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event, hosted by the Bradenton Yacht Club.

To make it possible Larry Lurie, PHWFF regional coordinator, arranged for 17 boats and guide-captains plus 20 volunteer angler-assistants. Suncoast Fly Fishers joined mother volunteers including members of Backcountry Fly Fishing Association of Orlando, Gulf Shore Fly Fishing Club, Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, Mid Coast Fly Fishers, and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club to make this event very successful and to honor our veterans.

### Tom. Tom. Tom. What's in a name?

So how did our day go? We started with a hot breakfast and assigned each of the 18 veterans to a boat with its captain/guide and a volunteer. Four members from Suncoast Fly Fishers attended the event. Bob Schum is a veteran and now member of Suncoast. The other three are all named Tom -- Tom Jones, Tom Tolrud and Tom Gadacz.



*Larry Lurie, regional coordinator for PHWFF, organized the event, enlisting fly fishing guides, volunteers from area fly fishing clubs and, most importantly military veterans.*



*Suncoast Fly Fishers Tom Gadacz, Tom Jones, Tom Tolrud with veteran Bob Schum and Carolyn Schum.*

Veteran Bud Dickens from Pensacola and former U.S. Air Force fleet fighter was assigned to Tom Jones and me. Bob Schum was assigned to Captain Rachel Nobbe-Cato. By 10 all were out on the water. Most of the baitfish were in the grassy areas in five to seven feet of water. Mackerel, sea trout, flounder, and ladyfish were the recorded catches. After three to four hours of fishing we were treated to a great lunch compliments of the Yacht Club and exchanged fish stories. Naturally, the sizes and numbers of fish increased with each reiteration.

*Continued on next page>>>>>*



## **Continued...Military veterans go fly-fishing**

**PHWFF** is a national non-profit (501c3) program that teaches veterans fly-fishing, fly-casting, fly tying, and fly rod building. It is helping heal the physical and emotional wounds of our veterans. Fly fishers all over the country organize fly-fishing activities in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and Clinics.



*Captain Rachel Nobbe-Cato and former U.S. Navy pilot Bob Schum, a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers*

This program is promoted by the International Federation of Fly Fishers and its charter and affiliated clubs. Blenker Boat Works and the Croswait Memorial Tournament provided funds to support his event. These events get the veterans out on the water to catch fish with a fly rod. Many of the vets have spent time at VA facilities tying flies and learning how to fly cast. Several programs also include fly rod building programs. The veteran can build his/her own rod, tie their own flies and then get out on the water to use the fly-fishing equipment that they made. All services are provided at no cost to our soldiers.

This event would not have been possible without the contributions of the captains and volunteers and the members of the Bradenton Yacht Club. We wish to thank all those involved in this event and to the many veterans who served to preserve the freedoms of our country. To them we owe our greatest THANKS!



*Captains Shawn Raulerson, Frank Rhodes and John Hand*



*Tom Gadacz, veteran Bud Dickens and Tom Jones*

*Next page, a thank you letter to Project Healing Waters*

## A Vet's Wife Thanks Project Healing Waters



Left and right, **Capt. Rachel Nobbe-Cato** with Bob Schum, Suncoast Fly Fisher and Project Healing Waters veteran.

**Larry Lurie, regional director of Project Healing Waters, received the following letter after the May 18 fishing outing for military veterans from Bradenton Yacht Club**

Dear Mr. Lurie,

I would like to take this time to tell you Thank You for making my husband happy again. My husband is a Navy Veteran, and attends Bay Pines VA in St. Petersburg, Fl. He is not only a liver transplant patient, and a recent BKA (below the knee amputee). He has been in the wheelchair since October of last year and only uses the walker to go to bed or the bathroom. Since then he has not wanted to do too much other than sit in front of the TV or sleep. The first time we heard of PROJECT HEALING WATERS was at the Amputee Support Group at the hospital. All the amputees were invited to go to the Community Living Center to learn how to tie flies and make a rod if they liked. Bob was not really interested, but I took him over and we met with the guys from SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS. These guys took Bob under their wings and got him tying flies right away. On the way home I asked him if he wanted to go back and he said yes. So our anniversary was in a few days so I purchased a kit for him.

Then we made a trip to Bill Jackson's, and started him out with a few things. Now he was excited to go back and show the guys what he had and get started. The guys told him where to go and what to get that wouldn't cost a lot. During the time that he is tying flies he is talking and learning and he is also sharing with other vets. We have since joined SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS, and they have made him feel like one of them even though he can't get around as well.

The last support group meeting they were told that PROJECT HEALING WATERS was having an outing on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. Bob got really excited and the guys told him that he would have a great time, but take lots of sunscreen and that was all he would need. He counted the days until today arrived. He was like a little kid, up early and we had to be on the road by a certain time. When we arrived at the Bradenton Yacht Club we were early so we were unsure where we were to go. That was when we met Mike, and he took us over to the tent where we were greeted and made at home.

After having a great breakfast, the boats were assigned and that's when Bob was ready. He really hadn't been fishing since 2009, so this was a twofold treat. It made me feel really happy to see the care and help he received not only from Capt. Rachael and Chad the volunteer to help assist the Captain and the Veteran. I was shocked to see Bob get into the boat not only with his walker but to have his wheelchair there for him. He had the biggest SMILE on his face when they pulled away from the dock. I have to admit I had a tear in my eye to see him do it.

This is a man, who was happy just to sit at home and do nothing. Now he is out and talking with people and doing things that he never would have done on his own. Thanks to PROJECT HEALING WATERS and SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS he is active again and enjoying life.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I know that you have given new life to a Vet in more ways than one. Thank you again.

Sincerely , Carolyn Schum

# Fly Fishing First Aid and Prevention

Richard Oldenski MD: Dehydration

---



*By Richard Oldenski MD*

Of all the health hazards that threaten fly fishers dehydration is probably the sneakiest. I'd bet that most of us have been dehydrated without even knowing it. On a typical day of fly fishing, it is possible but unlikely that we would end up in the emergency room to be treated for dehydration. Mild dehydration, however, could ruin a good fishing outing.

Water is the largest constituent of the human body making up about 60% of our body. It is essential to all of our physiologic functions. It is the main component of blood and carries nutrition and oxygen to our cells. It carries metabolic waste products away to be excreted from our body. As the main constituent of sweat, water helps regulate our body temperature and helps to dissipate excess body heat through evaporation.

Our bodies lose water on a daily basis. Water is lost through our urinary and digestive tracts in the process of eliminating the waste products of our metabolic processes. Some water is lost though the respiratory tract by breathing. A good deal of water can be lost by perspiration, especially if we live and exercise in a warm environment. The average adult loses about 2 liters of fluid per day, or about eight glasses. Since there is no water storage available in the body, the water we lose needs to be replaced. Dehydration occurs when we lose more water than we take in.



How much body water does a fly fisher lose when fishing? The answer will be different for each of us. Age, gender, proportion of body fat to muscle, level of fitness, underlying health problems like diabetes and certain medications, all make a difference. Factors like environmental temperature, humidity, level of physical activity and even clothing can have an effect on perspiration and the amount of water lost while fly fishing. While fly fishing and kayaking on a hot, humid day in Florida, it is possible to lose 400 ml or about 13 ounces of water per hour.

When you start getting dehydrated, your kidneys try to conserve water. You urinate less and your urine becomes darker and more concentrated. Your mouth starts feeling dry and you get thirsty. You may feel fatigued; have body aches and maybe a headache.

*Continued>>>>*

## **Continued...Dehydration: Richard Oldenski MD**

---

With moderate dehydration, your heart speeds up but your pulse gets thready and you feel lethargic and a little lightheaded. If you progress to severe dehydration your heart rate will get rapid, you'll feel short of breath and your blood pressure will drop causing your extremities to get cold and you will become confused. If untreated, you could go on to coma, shock and death.

Most fly fishers will not become severely dehydrated, but if we do not replace the fluid we lose, we could become 1 to 2% dehydrated. This would make us mildly to moderately dehydrate. Studies have shown that healthy persons with this degree of dehydration can experience fatigue, impaired cognitive and motor functions, decreased attention and mood changes. In other words, you'll feel tired, your casting will get clumsy, you'll catch fewer fish, you'll get grouchy, and you'll be more prone to accidents. You and your fishing buddies will want to stop fishing earlier than you planned.

The obvious and best treatment for dehydration is water. Drink plenty of it before, during and after your fishing trip. Sports drinks like Gatorade are ok but they are meant for use in more strenuous athletic activities and have more sodium, carbohydrate and calories than most of us need. Likewise soda pop, even diet sodas, should be taken in small quantities because of extra sodium and calories and also because they can increase the risk of kidney stones. "Energy" drinks usually contain large amounts of caffeine and herbal supplements which may make you feel more alert but can have bad effects on your heart, blood pressure and nervous system, especially in the case of dehydration. A cup of coffee or two won't hurt you. Coffee doesn't have a diuretic effect if you consume less than 500 mg of caffeine, which is about 5 cups. Water is your best choice to stay hydrated. It's calorie-free, caffeine-free and replaces the fluid you've lost.

The best way to know how much water to drink is to watch your urine. The color of your urine should be a very light yellow to clear. Check your urine before, after and while you're fishing. Drink enough water to keep it clear and you'll avoid dehydration.



Don't let dehydration ruin your fishing outing. Take plenty of water along with you and remind yourself and your buddies to keep drinking it. We have so much fun fishing that we often forget to drink our water.

Make a habit of toasting each fish caught with a drink of water and a hearty "Na zdrowie!" - "To your health"!

## Damico: Fly Casting Clinic

---

### Belgian Cast: When and Why

*By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor*

#### Casting tip #42



The Belgian or oval cast is a sidearm backcast with an overhead forward cast. This oval casting motion separates the back cast from the forward casting plane. Because the plane of the back cast loop is not 180 degrees from the forward cast loop, it is easy to vary the loop size and prevent your fly from hitting the rod and breaking the rod tip or hitting you. It is a great cast to use when using sinking lines, heavy flies or multiple flies. However, every false cast or forward cast with the oval cast will introduce a half-twist, another good reason to minimize false casting. What you need to do is to make sure your line is completely twist free before starting to fish. Face down stream and let the line out of the rod tip before putting the fly onto the tippet. This will untwist the line. Make a long forward cast very high in the air and shake the rod tip as the cast unfolds. As the line free-falls to the water the line will untwist. You can also remove the reel from the rod and let the reel spin to untwist the line.

*Pat Damico, MCI, St. Pete Beach*

## Bob Morrison: How-To

---

### Be nice to your fish

#### Extracting a barbed hook

When extracting a barbed hook, I have had success with minimum injury to the fish by following a simple procedure. First, I push the hook slightly deeper into the jaw of the fish. then move the hook down toward the bottom of the hook, that is the side of the point away from the barb. This move frees the barb from the flesh. I then attempt to pull the hook out of the jaw while continuing to press downward. Explained another way. I lay the hook shank left-to right, with the eye of the hook on my right. Using a clockwise rotary motion, I move the hook right, then down toward me, then back toward the entry point. I follow this procedure as many times as it takes to free the hook without bringing any flesh with it. Try it; it works.

#### More on catch and release.

I like to use a catch-and release net that is made from soft material, often rubberized, and with no hard knots to scrape the sensitive skin of the fish. You can also use one of the jaw-clamping devices to hold a fish securely during unhooking. I like these as well, but take care not to injure the jaw. Don't be like those boobs in the bass tournament TV shows who think it's neat to bend a largemouth's jaw down at ninety degrees to the lateral line while kissing him on the nose. The poor creature probably can't hunt for a week after such treatment.

#### Who knew? Sprained wrist exercise helps fly-casting form and endurance

I sprained my right wrist on my casting arm. I thought up an exercise that might strengthen the wrist. I sit in a straight-back chair with the back about two feet in front of, and facing away from, my dining room wall. With the butt section of a two-piece fly rod I practice casting, taking care not to re-injure the wrist. I'm now up to two hundred repetitions before I begin to feel the strain. I start with the rod at ten o'clock, just above horizontal, and move the rod quickly back to one o'clock, just past vertical. If you hit the wall you've gone too far. I'm ready to go fishing (just as soon as it stops raining.) *Good luck and tight lines, Bob Morrison*



# Fly Casting Instruction

Dayle Mazzaralla: Essentials of Teaching Fly Casting Part IV

---

## Using Praise, Prompt and Leave

*By Dayle Mazzaralla, IFFF Certified Casting Instructor*

When teaching, one of the techniques that research has proven to be immensely helpful is Praise, Prompt, and Leave.

Using a previous article on lesson planning a roll cast, here is a good example:

**Praise** - “You did a good job of forming a D Loop, your hand was in the right place and your forward stroke was nicely done.”



**Prompt** - “Make sure to stop your rod at 10 o’clock.” (They drove their rod towards the grass which brought their line down in a pile instead of out.)

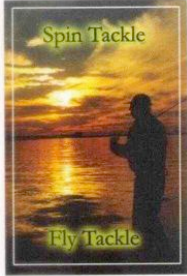
**Leave** - Let them do it. If you are teaching a set of people working as partners, tell the second person, “Mary, watch John and remind him to stop at 10 o’clock.”

When doing a group lesson, this tactic is absolutely necessary as the tendency for the instructor to “get stuck” with one person is a constant problem. By using this technique an instructor can move from pair to pair or individual to individual quickly. Everyone feels as though they are getting individual attention.

By using Praise, Prompt, and Leave, we never provide a negative reinforcement of an error.

*Next month we’ll break down a typical lesson plan into its various components.*

# Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



**The Fly Guy**  
 Capt. Pat Damico  
 2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.  
 St. Pete Beach, FL 33706  
 Tel: 727-360-6466  
 Web: <http://captpat.com>  
 Email: [flyguy@captpat.com](mailto:flyguy@captpat.com)



**Fish On Art** by Del Calhoun  
 1622 Mira Lago Cr.  
 Ruskin Fl. 33570  
 630-363-1962  
 Del@fishonart.com  
 facebook.com/fishonart  
 www.Fishonart.com  
*Because fishing is a full-time obsession*



Guy Tillotson  
 President  
 Phone: (904) 347-3138  
 Email: [guy@grandslamgroup.com](mailto:guy@grandslamgroup.com)  
**GRAND SLAM GROUP, LLC**  
 Sales & Marketing  
[www.GrandSlamGroup.com](http://www.GrandSlamGroup.com)  
 3806 Guilford Rd. #6 Naples, FL 34112

**KSAR Jewels LLC**  
 Specializing in Wholesale, Retail, Corporate Jewelry & Accessories  
**Katerina Rosenberg**  
 President  
 PO Box 3412  
 Apollo Beach, FL 33572  
 +1 813.361.9076  
[www.ksarcatalog.com](http://www.ksarcatalog.com)  
[www.ksarjewels.com](http://www.ksarjewels.com)  
  
[kat@ksarjewels.com](mailto:kat@ksarjewels.com)




100% Satisfaction Guarantee  
[WWW.ORVIS.COM](http://WWW.ORVIS.COM)  
 888-235-9763  
*Sporting Traditions Since 1856*



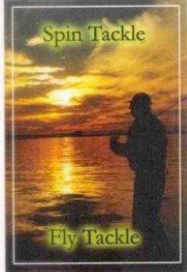
[WWW.ONOS.COM](http://WWW.ONOS.COM)  
 1-866-865-4695



[www.templeforkflyrods.com](http://www.templeforkflyrods.com)  
 800.638.9052  


GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN  
  
**TODD MURRIAN** 727-822-3981  
[www.bobleetire.com](http://www.bobleetire.com)  
 1631 - 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704

# Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



**The Fly Guy**  
Capt. Pat Damico  
2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706  
Tel: 727-360-6466  
Web: <http://captpat.com>  
Email: [flyguy@captpat.com](mailto:flyguy@captpat.com)

Guy Tillotson  
President  
Phone: (904) 347-3138  
Email: [guy@grandslamgroup.com](mailto:guy@grandslamgroup.com)

**GRAND SLAM GROUP, LLC**  
Sales & Marketing  
[www.GrandSlamGroup.com](http://www.GrandSlamGroup.com)

3806 Guilford Rd. #6 Naples, FL 34112

© Paula Cannon 1996

**KSAR Jewels LLC**  
Specializing in Wholesale, Retail, Corporate Jewelry & Accessories

**Katerina Rosenberg**  
President

PO Box 3412  
Apollo Beach, FL 33572  
+1 813.361.9076

[www.ksarcatalog.com](http://www.ksarcatalog.com)  
[www.ksarjewels.com](http://www.ksarjewels.com)

[kat@ksarjewels.com](mailto:kat@ksarjewels.com)




**On The Fly**  
Fly Fishing and Tying  
Equipment, Instruction, and Adventures

Enver Hysni  
Cell 727.504.4062  
Info@tbotf.com

4203 W El Prado Blvd  
Tampa FL 33629  
Phone 813.443.0660  
Fax 813.443.0662



[www.tampabayonthefly.com](http://www.tampabayonthefly.com)

**FLY FISHING Star Valley Outfitters**

- Lessons
- Casting
- Fly Tying
- Fishing Trips



**Dayle Mazzarella**  
(760) 703-0118  
email: [emailmazz@yahoo.com](mailto:emailmazz@yahoo.com)

**JIM SWANN'S**

Complete Fly Fishing Shop  
Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Guide Service  
Fly Tying Materials  
Classes in Fly Tying and Casting

352-567-6029

13650 S. 98 By Pass  
Dade City, FL 33525

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN



**727-822-3981**  
**TODD MURRIAN** [www.bobleetire.com](http://www.bobleetire.com)  
1631 - 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704

*Put your ad here*

**Put your business card ad in On The Fly. Just \$100 (or auction items) for 12 monthly issues. Contact Paul Sequira [psequira@tampabay.rr](mailto:psequira@tampabay.rr).**

## Fly Fisher Reflections

---

### David Putnam: Looking into the loving eyes of a popper



Poppers need larger hooks than you might be thinking. Take a look at established, long-selling poppers sold in tackle shops, and you'll see that they all have rather large hooks. A larger hook adds weight and pulls the rear of the fly down, and it will catch more fish. (Wapsi, a supplier of fly tying equipment, sells foam popper bodies with separate hooks that are appropriately sized. Just cement the hooks and you're ready to attach other materials.)

I know what you're thinking: that when the fly lands on the water and you let it sit, the rear will hang down. Isn't it supposed to lie flat while you wait a long minute for the rings made on the water to subside, before you twitch it?

There is a long-popular notion that admiring the fly as it sits on the water is a good thing. I can hear a fly tying guru in my fly fishing club instructing a new angler, "Cast it out and just let it sit there. Do not move it. Wait. When you can't stand it any more, give it a small twitch." I suspect that he's more of a fly tier than a fly fisherman who uses poppers often.

That advice is bad. Bluegills face a lot of competition for food. The big ones got that way by eating often. They are the most aggressive. A bug landing on the water is a natural thing. They don't want it to get away or get eaten by one of their pals. An astute angler will let the fish see it and get excited about it, then he'll threaten to take it away by moving it. *Then* they'll bust it! (It's not unlike the car salesman who comes back to tell you that they only have one left in the color you like, and someone else is about to buy it. He's using what's called "the takeaway" technique.) Keep the fly moving, something like this: When the fly lands on the water get your line under control while counting one thousand one, one thousand two, then snap it good so it pops, making that blooping noise peculiar to poppers, move it a few inches and twitch it again, then let it sit for a second or two, then pop it again. No hit? Pick up the fly and put it in the next good-looking spot. Don't fish it all the way back to the boat. You thought the fish was more likely to be where you cast it in the first place, not next to the boat in the middle of the canal/pond/lake/river.

It's very important to move the fly only by jerking your fly line--fast-stripping the line through the guides. Always keep the line pointing directly at the fly. When a fish strikes do not raise the rod and pull back to set the hook. Instead, make a long strip, tightening the line to set the hook, *then* raise the rod to control the fish.

Rather than the fly sitting in one spot, you're moving it, making things happen, and you'll cover far more water and catch those fish that hit the fly the instant it lands, the really compulsive ones that seem to see the fly coming through the air, which is always a good sign to a popper fisherman. Bluegill greed is good.

And while you're moving the fly for another cast try to avoid casting into those wonderful small pockets of clear water under trees or back in the lily pads, unless you are a truly expert caster. Sure, it's fun, but the odds are against you. Get tangled in the tree and your fly is not where a fish can eat it. You lose time getting the fly back by using the trolling motor to go and retrieve it. While it's important to be near "cover," you don't really know if a fish is there waiting for your fly, and your fishing partner is sure to be annoyed if he's constantly having to position the boat to retrieve your poorly cast flies. Make sensible casts to reasonable spots and you'll end up catching more fish. You'll still catch your share of snags.

*Continues on next page>>>>*



## Continued...Fly Fisher Reflections

---

David Putnam: Looking into the loving eyes of a popper

*We're talking poppers by the bucketful. Delicious.*

Don't forget that flies tied with weed guards catch fewer fish. The average caster uses a fly with a weed guard too aggressively, throwing it into dense brush, where it will occasionally get stuck despite the guard. Catching the fly in the Vee of a big lily pad means motoring or paddling to get it loose. More time lost, or maybe a fly broken off intentionally if it's too hard to get to. If you really want to fish heavy structure--pads and dense grass--use a casting rod. Even if you hook a decent fish with a fly rod in that scenario, you'll have problems getting it out of the grass, using time better spent on another few casts.

Watch professional bass fishermen. They keep the lure moving, making hundreds of casts per day. Those who fish heavy cover do so using 50 lb.-braided line, so they can pull loose from any hooked brush or rocks. They fish the odds, making sure the lure is where a fish might find it. They keep it wet, not stuck in the bushes.

The perfect fly rod for bluegills varies depending on where you'll be fishing. I favor 3 or 4 weight rods. Fishing from a boat a seven footer is fine. When I'm wading I like a nine-foot rod to help get the fly above tall grass on my back cast. Most bluegill fishing calls for short casts, though if your companion is hogging the bow position with the trolling motor, casting to the best areas before you can cast to them, you may be required to make longer casts. (I recently purchased an outfit from Cabela's called a Wind River Combo, a four-weight graphite rod with a reel loaded with line and backing, for the amazing price of \$69.95. If you become a bluegill addict, which is easy to do, you'll want at least three outfits for a range of fly sizes and wind conditions. No need for fancy rods with fast tips.)

Buy your poppers if you must. A company called, Accardo, makes good ones. Don't let 'em sit still. Strip strike; don't raise the rod. Make sure the hook's big enough and there's plenty of wiggly stuff hanging down.

Fry 'em if you like.

You're allowed to keep a bucket full. I returned a few thousand to the water last year, and on the full moon I'll be holding them in my hands again and looking into their beautiful shiny eyes.





## Fly Over

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

### Take the fly fishing trivia test

Orvis posts a fun trivia challenge from time to time. I don't do so well. For instance, I did not know (and I was disappointed to learn) that David Letterman was a fly fisher. So take the test and let me know how you scored. ([Orvis](#))



### Corn is food, not fuel

Alleluja. Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill that overturned the law requiring that gasoline have 10 percent of ethanol. The ethanol requirement didn't apply to small engines, like outboard motors. (I've been refueling at the Mariner Car Wash on 4<sup>th</sup> Street N. in SP; it's high-octane fuel and costs about \$4/gallon.) Still, finding ethanol-free gas will be a continuing challenge, it seems. Federal regs are still in place. But proponents are hopeful this will put pressure on the feds to back off of the ethanol fuel regulations. ([Boating Industry](#))

### Are fly fishers sexist?

Matt Labash, a conservative-learning fly fisher, offers some advice to Amanda, an avid fly fisher engaged to another fly fisher. "... You will likely have many happy outings together. However, I personally stick by my decision to marry a non-fisherwoman. Somebody should mind the store, exhibit responsible behavior, and generally make the trains run on time. These are essential life skills not readily compatible with the fishing-bum ethos. One spouse in any marriage should be a fully-evolved human being. So it might as well be my wife. (With both of you being fishing obsessives, who will pay the bills and raise the children?) As a Montana guide once told me that he tells his clients when they ask if he wants to marry a girl who fishes, "--ck no! I want a girl who rows." ([Daily Caller](#))

### Brazil, here we come

Is fishing for big peacock bass in the Amazon basin on your bucket list? The Peacock Bass Association has a website to help you get that one checked off. And, yep, there's an app for that, too, with A-Z trip planning as well as lots of tips and photos. It's the "Fishing the Amazon Guide" app for iPads and tablets, online for \$9.95, at the Apple iTunes store or the Android/Google Play store. ([Fishing the Amazon Guide](#))

### Curse those derelicts

Tampa Bay Watch has announced removal of derelict crab traps on July 13 Saturday from 9 AM to noon. They are looking for volunteers with boats. It's a good cause and you can curse the derelicts who abandoned them. ([Tampa Bay Watch](#))

### Whose side are you on?

Costco put some Sage and Simms high-end products on the rack at 16 locations and priced these high quality products at less (much) below the fly shops. Well, that didn't last long. Before the word got out to bargain-seekers, the companies sent reps in and they paid retail prices to get those products out of the discount stores. What do you think about this? Read about it [here](#) ([Angling Trade](#))

*Email me your answer. We'll publish comments in the next issue of On The Fly. Editor*