

On The Fly

November 2013 Volume 23, Issue 11

Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



Many Things Happening Before Year Ends.

Report on Florida Council Expo. Many of you were a part of the 500 who attended the Florida Council Expo at The Plantation in Crystal River (see photos). We had 16+ SFF members at the banquet, which was a sellout. Thanks for your support and I hope you had good time and some time to fish. The programs were great with experienced guides giving out their fishing secrets. The fly tiers, casting instructors, and vendors had much to offer and were

kept busy. Phil Greenlee, President and CEO of IFFF, talked about how important it is to promote fly-fishing at events like our Expo. Chico and Flip provided some great and hilarious stories. Thanks go to many people for making the Expo a success and my thanks to Bill AuCoin for helping us promote the Expo. We will be returning to The Plantation in Crystal River next year October 10-11, 2014.

Casting Clinic and Outing. The casting clinic and outing is at Picnic Island in Tampa on **November 23**. The details are given below. We will have several IFFF Master Casting Instructors at this event, which is being led by Dayle Mazzarella. These clinics are a very important part of our activities and are supported through IFFF. The clinic is free to all currently active members of IFFF. If your IFFF membership has expired you can renew it for \$35 at the clinic., or pay \$50 as a non-member. Following the clinic we will have our outing so make sure you bring all your fly fishing gear.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

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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

- November 21, meeting. Leigh West, TBFFC-- *Wade Fishing Part II. Advanced Tactics and Techniques*. Also, fly swappers tie saltwater flies for the November meeting.
- November 23, Club Outing at Picnic Island Park in Tampa. Fly-casting clinic and wade/kayak fishing
- November 25, Employee Wellness Fair at Bay Pines. Call John Craig at 727 423-3319
- December 6-7, Renzetti Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair, Titusville. It's a big deal.
- December 14, December outing. Don Coleman fishing and chili cook-off.
- January 10, Port Manatee tour and fly-fishing in this protected area. Sign-up at the meeting.
- March 29, 4-8 pm, Hog Roast and Silent Auction, Treasure Island City Auditorium

Monthly Meetings

Suncoast Fly Fishers meet the third Thursday of each month (except December) in the community center at Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26 Avenue N. St. Petersburg.

- 6:00 – 7:00 pm –Fly tying
- 7:00—8:00 pm – Meeting and program

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



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 Sequeira

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 Sequeira

Webmaster – OPEN

Hog Roast – Karen and Rick Warfel

Outings – Alan Sewell

Outing lunches – Richard Oldenski, Mark Hays

Project Healing Waters – John Craig, Terry

Kirkpatrick

Raffles – Dave Barson

Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing – Kirk Burton,
Tom Gadacz, Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski

Programs: Board of directors

Newsletter/Publicity – Bill AuCoin

Prez Sez, continued from page 1

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers

Don Coleman Classic and Chili Cook-off. Since we do not have a membership meeting in December, we have set a date for the Don Coleman Classic for **December 14** at Fort DeSoto Park. If you have a favorite chili recipe and wish to share a pot of it, bring it along. Same for any sides or deserts. Alan will be cooking his famous chili recipe. We hope to see some guests from the Tampa Bay, Tarpon Coast and Mangrove Coast clubs.



Port Manatee Trip. We have scheduled a trip to Port Manatee for **January 10, 2014 (Friday)**. We do need to know if you plan to attend so please sign up at this month's meeting or e-mail me (thomasgadacz@yahoo.com). Gina Russo, FWC coordinator, is planning a tour from 10 to noon, lunch (bring your own + beverage), tour of the ponds and then some fishing (bring your fishing gear).

SFF Web Site Manager. We wish to thank Woody Miller who has managed our web site for several years. We are requesting that any member who has had some experience with a web site to contact me or one of the Board members of your interest in managing the web site. We do have a professional agent who has set up the site and assists with its management but we need someone who will enter data and keep it current. Much of the content is provide by board members and members at large. Your volunteering is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Tom

News 'n Notes

Bay Pines Wellness Fair

Bay Pines has asked Suncoast Fly Fishers to participate in their Employee Wellness Fair on Monday, November 25th, to be held in the Cobb Auditorium. The fair is to introduce Bay Pines employees to the recreational activities available to them in our community. This is an opportunity for us to display what we at SFF have to offer. Bay Pines will provide at least one table to display fly tying and our promotional materials. We could demonstrate fly-casting at an adjacent outdoor area. Tentatively, the hours are 7:30 AM to 4 PM. Please contact John Craig (727-423-3319) if you can help with the fly casting, fly tying, or staffing the display table.

Renzetti Fly-Fishing and Rod Building Fair, Dec. 6-7

This is a kind of a big deal for Florida fly fishers, male and female, a Titusville event featuring the top tier of fly-fishing heroes including Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser, Jon Cave, Flip Pallot, Nick Curcione, Bob Popovics, Pat Ehlers, John Stumpe and more. Lily Renzetti, Renzetti company principal, has organized a seminar for women on the basics of fly casting. SFF President Tom Gadacz will represent the Florida Council of the IFFF, for which he also serves as president. The fair benefits Casting for Recovery Florida Retreats for breast cancer survivors and Project Healing Waters in Florida. Buy tickets in advance at www.renzetti.com. Outdoor writer Bill Sargent featured it in [Florida Today](#).

Hoo Ray

SFF member Ray Markham won the snook-red-trout SLAM in the Mangrove Coast/Coastal Conservation Association "Fall Fly fishing Challenge" in October. His total fish length: 59.5 inches.

Have you paid your dues? [Click here](#) for the application to renew.

Tom Gadacz: IFFF Fly-fishing Expo in Crystal River

Suncoast Fly Fishers at the IFFF Fly-Fishing Fair

By Tom Gadacz

Five hundred Florida fly anglers converged at Crystal River in mid-October to attend the IFFF Florida Council's 2013 Fly-fishing Expo at the Plantation on Crystal River. The venue was a 50-year-old, 232-acre resort on the King's Bay spring system, the largest aquifer in Florida. It is home to record-breaking tarpon and hundreds of West Indian manatees.

Old-salts and new fly fishers participated in 41 programs and workshops — from fly casting and fly tying workshops, outdoor photography, building fishing first-aid kits, and developing casting teaching skills, to specialized programs like making the transition from fresh-to-saltwater fly-fishing and a half-day program for kids only.

Some 24 fly tiers from all over the state demonstrated skill and displayed their creations, those for tarpon, redfish and sea trout and bonefish, but also for the state's many freshwater species – bass, bluegill, and sunfish and the exotics.



Flip and Chico, two major reasons we are all Florida fly fishers. They caught the fly-fishing bug early. Like, you know, fishing from air mattresses? Today, dues paid, they fish from Hells Bay skiffs.

The Expo program featured two of Florida's most noted saltwater anglers — Chico Fernandez and Flip Pallot. Both first-rate raconteurs, they described their boyhood days of fly-fishing from air mattresses to fly-fishing with baseball star, Ted Williams.

Phil Greenlee was our honored guest. He is president and CEO of the International Federation of Fly Fishers.

We had great support from our many vendors, the local media, Bobbie Cox, president, and all members of the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers.

Continued on next page>>>>



Suncoast Fly Fishers Pat Damico (left) and Robert Fischer (right) yuk it up with featured fly-tier Layne Smith and some of Smitty's fly tying material.

Continued... IFFF Fly-fishing Expo in Crystal River

Thanks first go to the members of the Florida Council who planned a great event.

- Tom Logan coordinated the Expo and organized the fly tier demonstrations.
- David Lambert and Joe Mahler assembled programs and speakers and publicized the event.
- David Olson recruited and coordinated vendors from all areas of the fly-fishing world.
- Roger Maler handled Expo marketing.
- And Tracy Maler and Karen Markey did a great job with the registration (with help from many members of the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers.)
- Kirk and Wendy Burton and staff had great raffle and silent auction items.
- Pete Greenan handled the fly casting certification and testing.
- Gerald Bell, our treasurer, made sure all of our bills were paid and handled printing and signage.
- M.E. DePalma provided web-based support from the Florida Council
- Oscar Feliu and Jack Neely put on a superb kids' program.
- Thanks also to Rhonda Sellers and Judy Snyder who provided publicity support from the IFFF.

I wish to thank all the presidents of the Florida fly-fishing clubs for their help and support. They helped publicized our event in their newsletter and web sites and we appreciate their help and support.

If you want to learn how to fly fish in Florida, do not miss our 2014 Florida Council Expo! Learn how to catch Florida fish on a fly and make some great fly-fishing friends.

Tom

Thomas Gadacz
President, Florida Council IFFF



Suncoast Fly Fisher Tom Gadacz, also president of the Florida Council of the IFFF, with honorees Flip Pallot, Chico Fernandez, special guest Phil Greenlee, President of the IFFF, and Tom Logan, chairman of the Florida Fly Expo and first vice president of the Florida Council of the IFFF. Logan, from Tallahassee, is a member of the Florida Big Bend Fly Fishers.

More Florida Fly Fishing Expo pictures follow>>>>

**Continued...Suncoast Fly Fishers
at Florida Fly Expo**



Alan Sewell, Ken Doty and Dave Barson take a fresh-air break at The Plantation at Crystal River



Layne Smith shows off his beautiful Blue Winged Olive which he tied for Fly Expo attendees.



Wendy and Kirk Burton helped manage the silent auction and raffles



Flip and Chico salute Suncoast Fly Fisher George Haseltine with their signatures on this tarpon memento.



Coastal Angler Publisher Rodney Smith, left, with club members Walt Ruda and Dayle Mazzarella. Rodney Smith and Mazzarella were Fly Expo presenters. FYI, Smith will be our March meeting guest and presenter.



Mark Hays, right, with Oscar Fileu at the vise and his clubmate Jack Neely of Tri-County Fly Fishers. Fileu and Neely put on the Expo program for kids.

Tom Jones: Hey Look! Down There. A Lookdown Fish



Tom writes, "I went out fishing last night and every time I looked down there was a *look down* fish. They were everywhere. Caught two of them on a mini-shminnow fly. I don't know if anyone else considers this an unusual catch but it's rare in my experience.

"Excellent eating, the book says, but they are also perfect subjects for fish printing which we may (*you will*) be doing in the near future. I offered to teach a workshop on fish printing for the fly fishing club.

Blessings, Tom"

Andy Constantinou: On Secret Assignment in England



Andy iPhones us from England. "I had a very successful day at Latimer catching my limit of 7 fish. Two of them were brownies around 2.5 lb.

"I caught one of the browns on a suspender black buzzer. The others where caught on a grey minky, a fly I used for the first time. I'm bringing some to Florida when I return to try them out on bass and in the sea. It will be interesting to see the results.

"The fish were moving all day. It was a very windy gusting up to 20 mph with occasional showers. I fished from a punt in the middle of the lake."



Suspender Black Buzzer



Grey Minky



Carl Hanson Memorial October Outing

Photos by TBFFC's Dick Miekka



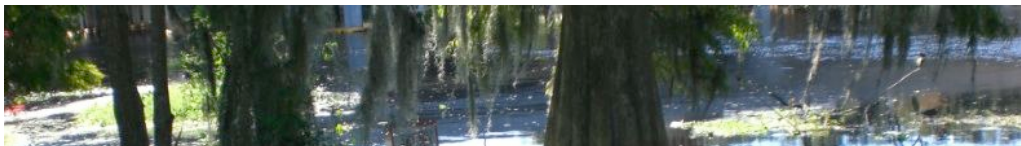
Top and bottom, Jeff Janacek of TBFFC wins both awards – big fish and most fish -- for his Hillsborough River catches during the annual Carl Hanson outing. The man in the drawing is the namesake of this event. Presenting the awards were last year's winners, Mark Hays (above) and Robert Fischer (below).



Alan Sewell, Richard Oldenski, Joe Dail relax with the beautiful Hillsborough River flowing in the background



Salute the chef -- L to R – Mark Craig, Mark Hays, George Haseltine and John Craig.



MarineQuest 2013: Students Tie Their First Fly

This is the fifth year that Suncoast Fly Fishers has been invited to help young students tie flies at MarineQuest, the annual open house hosted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in downtown St. Pete. Our four-table exhibit was on the "midway" and young fly-fishers to be were drawn to the scene, as were their parents. Our two-wise instructors were Al Pitcher, Richard Oldenski, Jeff Heer, Don Manning, and John Craig who came by and tied flies so the others could take a break. By the end of the day SFF tiers had helped more than 60 kids tie their first fly.



Richard Oldenski inspires a new fly fisher



Al Pitcher and student



Jeffrey Heer with a new fly tier

[More MarineQuest pictures on the next page>>>>](#)

Continued... Suncoast Fly Fishers at MarineQuest 2013



Don Manning and a mom



John Craig, above, dropped by the fly tying tables and took over one of tying tables so the regulars could take a break.



Left, Al Pitcher steers Elizabeth Massey, daughter of Suncoast Fly Fishers Stephen and Betty Massey.

October Meeting. Tie a Thon and ... yes... FREE Pizza

Member eyeballs were glued on the fly tiers at the October meeting Tie-A-Thon.

Al Pitcher tied a bead head fly on a #8 hook which he fished in the Carl Hanson outing on the Hillsborough River.

Alan Sewell tied a fold-over green floating bream killer. Writes Alan, "It works great except on the Hillsborough River." (Oh my. Was he hoping you'd fish it during the Carl Hanson outing?)

Larry Morse tied Peter Koga's Salt Water Shrimp. See the Tying Bench page in this issue.

Layne Smith tied the Diamond Crab Fly. It looked like it could adorn the wife's cocktail dress. (Be sure to flatten the barb.) Smitty is writing up the tying steps and we'll feature this fly in the December issue Tying Bench.



Pitcher's bead head fly



Morse's saltwater shrimp



Smitty ties the diamond crab fly



Smitty's diamond crab fly which will be the featured fly in December's Tying Bench



A good time was had by all.



Larry Morse tied the Saltwater Shrimp featured in this issue's Tying Bench

Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews



November 23, 2013 -- The November Suncoast Fly Fishers outing will be held at Picnic Island Park in Tampa (at the south end of Westshore Blvd.) This will be a two-part outing. We will start with casting instructions with IFFF Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico. After casting and lunch, wade fishing will be held at the park. This month's prize will be for the longest fish, of any species.

December 14, 2013--This outing will be our Don Coleman Memorial. We fish at Fort DeSoto Park and lunch will be our annual chili feast. All of our local fly fishing clubs – Tarpon Coast, Tampa Bay, Mangrove Coast -- are invited. Please fish or just show up to eat and socialize. Bring your spouse or friends for our last party of 2013.

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

Alan

Recipe of the Month: Quick and Easy Cole Slaw

This quick and easy recipe will make a perfect coleslaw. It is always a hit at outing lunches.

- Ready-cut "Angel Hair" cabbage - 4 bags
- Caraway seeds - 1 Tbsp.
- Marzetti "original" slaw dressing
- Ground black pepper.

Toss the angel hair cabbage and caraway seeds in a bowl. Slowly stir in just enough slaw dressing to coat the cabbage. Be careful; too much dressing will make the cole slaw soggy. Grind a small amount of black pepper on the coleslaw. Keep the cole slaw chilled until ready to serve.

Enjoy,

Richard Oldenski

Rick Warfel: Tarpon and Black Drum...from the Dock

I had two great catches in October fishing from my dock in Apollo Beach. One was a black drum estimated at about 12 lbs. caught the first week of the month. The other was a nice baby tarpon caught the last Sunday of the month. Both fish took a black-over-yellow Clouser minnow.



Florida's Fly Fishing Clubs and Website Links

<http://fedflyfishers.org/Councils/Florida.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Federation-of-Fly-Fishers-Florida-Council/146437518751967>

[Suncoast Fly Fishers - Welcome](#)

[BFA of Orlando - Home](#)

[Backcountry Fly Fishing Association - Brevard County Florida - IFFF Affiliated Club located in Melbourne](#)

[Welcome to Panhandle Flyfishers](#)

[Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club](#)

[Homepage of the Florida Big Bend Flyfishers](#)

[Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers | Southwest Florida's premier fly fishing club](#)

[Mid-coastflyfishers.org | Under Construction!](#)

[Stuart Flyrodders](#)

[Sunshine City Anglers](#)

[Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers](#)

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

[Tri-County Fly Fishers -- Pictures](#)

[Fly Fishers of NW Florida](#)

[Charlotte Harbor Fly Fishers](#)

Tying Bench – Peter Koga’s Salt Water Shrimp Tied by Larry Morse

This fly was originally tied as the Bonefish Squimp pattern that has been very successful in the Bahamas. Peter Koga modified the original pattern for use on the bonefish flats of Oahu. It has attracted many species in Tampa Bay, including Spotted Trout and Pinfish using two to three inch retrieves to drag the fly across the flats. A slightly more aggressive retrieve will suspend the fly in the water above the flats and has attracted Ladyfish. Note: every other nuisance fish present on the flats will also be attracted by this fly, so tie several as it will get chewed up fairly quickly.



Materials

Hook: Number 6 or 4 depending on the size of the body desired.

Thread--White or tan flat-waxed nylon.

Eyes--Large gold bead chain eyes for shallow water with little current. Lead dumbbell eyes for deeper water or faster current.

Legs--Any rubber leg material you have on hand will work. The fly shown is tied using Ginger Spandflex which has proven to be more durable.

Body--Tan Ice Dubbing. Color can be varied to match the flats.

Wing--Sparse bunch of flash or white fish hair for an under wing which is topped with a sparse bunch of natural squirrel tail.

Tying Sequence

1. Wrap thread base from just behind the hook eye to slightly beyond the bend in the hook.
2. Tie eyes on top of the hook shank at the bend of the hook.
3. Attach two sets of legs on the bend (front) side of the eyes. One short pair slightly splayed over the top of the hook shank and one pair slightly longer than the hook shank tied to each side of the shank. Note that the first wraps of thread should not be tightened to avoid too much splaying of the legs. Let the tag ends lie over the eyes and tie them off behind the eyes.
4. Tie a dubbing loop on the opposite (back) side of the eyes, insert dubbing. Adjust dubbing to create a tapered body from the eyes back to the hook eye and twist the loop until a tight dubbing rope is created.
5. Wrap the dubbing rope once on the backside of the eyes and then do a figure eight over the top of the eyes. Taper the wrap to the hook eye and tie off.
6. Turn hook over in the vise and tie in the under wing and over wing near the shank's eye on the hook side (bottom) of the shank. Length should match the longest pair of legs attached in step 3.
7. Attach a final pair of legs on either side of the hook shank at the same place the wing is tied in. Legs should extend to the end of the longer pair tied in step 3. Leave a short tag beyond the hook eye. Whip finish and apply head cement to the thread.



Damico: Fly Casting Clinic

Use two-hand spey-casting techniques to improve one-hand rod presentations

By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Casting tip #47

"You should have been here yesterday!" This really applies to our recent IFFF Expo hosted by the Florida Council in Crystal River recently. Casting venues were over-subscribed and gave participants tremendous help from Certified Instructors. One that I especially enjoyed was given by Leslie Holmes, MCI, on our casting tip topic. Having watched videos and used spey rods in the past has improved my ability to make smooth, effortless casts in very difficult situations. Check YouTube and other locations for more information on this subject and make sure you attend our next Expo event.

Pat Damico, MCI, St. Pete Beach

Bob Morrison: How - To



The Magic Hour: Baitfish of several types are congregating around shallow water structures right now, and a number of fly patterns should bring action. Small bright glass minnows, surf candies, deceivers and spoon flies are working at the beaches just at dawn and for only an hour or two thereafter, so get there and be ready to start in just as soon as it's light enough to see.

Is this cheating? Spin fishermen are catching fish on silver minnow spoons and other bright lures, so you might like to start in with a spinning outfit to cover lots of area quickly, locate fish, and then switch to the fly. Is this cheating? Allen Sewell doesn't think so, and neither do I.

Piers-Oyster Beds-Docklights: Try greenback minnow (scaled sardine) patterns at the piers, also vertically striped pinfish patterns and cockroaches over the oyster beds. Clouser minnows in chartreuse and white, and in tan and white to imitate the bay anchovy, are working. Finally, remember the blunt-nosed mullet pattern, called Deadhead Minnow by Smitty, in white with red gills and some flash, for docklight fishing at night.

Holy Sharp Teeth Macks: With both Spanish and king mackerel bringing their sharp teeth into Tampa Bay, think about using some short wire or cable tippet, or you may lose more flies than you care to. Otherwise, use heavier mono.

Go get 'em, and good luck

Bob Morrison

Mazzarella: Fly Casting-Fly-Fishing Instruction

The Five Essentials of Catching Fish: Part 3

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.



How to present the fly?

This is mostly about casting, equipment and positioning. How do we get the fly to where the fish is, and in a way that imitates the life form we have chosen? Is a sink tip line better than a floating line? Is a long head better than a short head? Is a curve cast better than a dump cast?

Local guides can help us with finding fish and knowing what to put on the leader. They can even help with where to stand or anchor and what type of equipment to use, but they can't teach us a complicated cast in five minutes, on the water, with fish boiling in front of us. It simply isn't going to happen.

Without knowing how to make a number of different types of casts we will catch a lot fewer fish, at least on most days. By way of illustration, I was recently guiding two anglers on a local river. The fishing was tough and very precise presentations and accurate drifts were required. A friend of mine who is a casting instructor was fishing the river at the same time. We happened to meet in the parking lot before my clients arrived. He asked me what was going on and I told him the type of flies that were working and the presentations needed. (He had never fished the water before.)

My two clients arrived and we happily trotted down to the river. At lunch I saw my friend again. I asked him how he had done (out of the earshot of my frustrated clients). He told me he had hooked eleven fish (a good number for even an old hand at that river).

You'll need to read next month's post to find out how my clients fared and why!

Dayle Mazzarella, MCI

November 23 Outing - Picnic Island Casting Clinic

Improve your fly casting with Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella, Master Casting Instructors. It's free for members of the [International Federation of Fly Fishers](#), including members of Suncoast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Others, just \$50. Or, even better, can join IFFF at this event for just \$35 and then you can attend for free.

Where: [Picnic Island Park](#), Hillsborough County, 7049 Picnic Island Blvd, Tampa

When: November 23, 2013

8 am - 8:30 Check-in. We will have some equipment for those need it. A 6-wt. to 8-wt.rod with a 7-8 ft leader is recommended. We will have leader material, yarn, name tags, etc. We will familiarize participants with the format, layout, schedule, etc.

8:30 (Prompt) Basic casting principles and execution. This portion is designed to help beginners learn to make basic casts and understand the principles involved. In addition, more experienced casters will learn how to teach friends and family. A handout of the principles and drills will be provided. Even experienced casters will find this portion helpful in reviewing the basics which, in turn, will help you prepare for the more advanced casts later in the day.

DRILLS: Grass Drill, Pick-Up and Lay-Down, False Casting, Break, Feeding Line, Roll Cast, Roll Cast to Pick Up and Feed. Each drill will have an advanced challenge for those pushing their limits.

11:05 BREAK

11:15 Split into Groups

- Introduction to the IFFF Casting Instructor Program
- Quick Casting
- Basic Double-Haul
- Advanced Distance Casting
- Accuracy and Mending

12:00 LUNCH

12:45 pm Repeat 11:15am Groups

1:30 BREAK

1:45 Fun Casting Drills - 4 Stations

- * One-legged casting - (Keep the boat from rocking.)
- * Accuracy - (Under mangrove, docks, and Trout fishing)
- * Distance - (Get that Redfish!)
- * Quickcasting - (Get that Bonefish!)

Our November outing is a two-parter. One part is the casting clinic at Picnic Island Park. Another part is wade and/or kayak fishing in the vicinity of the park. See Alan Sewell's Review and Previous page for more details.

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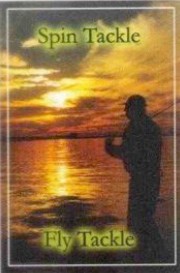


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David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

Big Boat, Little Boat



Why people choose the boats they do is a mystery. A friend recently asked me for advice about a family boat he could take his wife and little kids out in, do some water skiing, and maybe learn to fish. I suggested that he look at a Grady White 20-23 foot bow-rider with a split windshield his wife could sit behind and not muss her hair, with bow seats forward for the kids, a nice captain's chair for the helmsman and his wife, and a couple of back-to-back seats for friends. He bought an entirely different style of boat, because, "a buddy of mine has one and I kind of like it." It won't work well for him.

I was a boat dealer for years, and wasn't surprised at all by his decision. Like most boaters, he won't use it much anyway, and it'll sit on his davits and collect bird poop.

I learned that they all depreciate very fast and take a lot more maintenance than you expect. All of 'em can be a lot of fun and a great way to accumulate lasting memories, which, if you pay attention to weather and learn to navigate, can be mostly positive. I ran a boat cruise club for five years and learned that a tiny percentage of boaters do neither. Rough water and thunderstorms scare lots of boaters, and the Coast Guard routinely picks up bits and pieces on local sandbars, along with banged up kids and grandmas.

I've owned all sorts. My last powerboat was a 25' Contender, specially built with a windshield and captains' chairs. Two 150 Yamahas ran it on 15 gallons per hour at around thirty miles an hour. I chose the windshield and good chairs after years of banging around and getting everyone wet in center console boats, being worn out from a day standing. There were V-berths below, used only for safety and tackle storage. It was a fine boat for Key West, where I lived, and for Bahamas bonefish trips. Frequently I took two 9' kayaks along, and anchored off good-looking flats and paddled in. It was a versatile boat, on a good trailer, a tough boat on a bad Gulf Stream crossing, and a pleasure to operate from under the hard-top, out of the weather.

Gas was cheaper then, back in the late nineties. It was \$5.00 per gallon in Crystal River last week at a marina. I paid around \$60,000 for it, and figured I'd done ok when I sold it four years later for \$30,000.

Continued>>>>

David Putnam: Big Boat, Little Boat, page 2

At a recent fly fishing gathering at Crystal River there were specialized flats skiffs on display that run over \$50,000. I noticed that most of the attendees were older guys, like me, with questionable balance and bad knees, who have no business up on a poling platform, and I wondered who's buying fancy skiffs like that these days. I owned three poling skiffs years ago, and learned why they call 'em that...because someone's gotta be up there pushing the boat around on the flats, and the pusher isn't the fisher. Poling's fun, but it ain't fishing, and it's a real pain to have to jump down and get your fly rod going if you're by yourself fishing, which I often was.

And, I knew a young would-be guide in Key West who got caught in a storm in Boca Grande channel-- home to monster hammerheads-- having run all the way to the Marquesas for permit fishing. His 16' skiff filled with water in heavy seas, yet somehow didn't turn turtle, and after a cold and terrifying night he and his girlfriend and a pal were rescued by the Coast Guard. He packed his stuff and drove to Atlanta, where he still lives. Now he doesn't even put his *pasta* in salt water.

My current boat is the best for my fishing style. Check it out at Toweeboats.com. Choosing a boat is all about knowing where and how you like to fish, and accepting it's limitations and not trying to make it more than it is.

My boat's completely open, 16', with no storage built in--not one thing to catch a fly line. There are built-in wells on either side for fly fishing rods or spinning gear, and oars and a push pole.(My wife and I enjoy rowing for exercise.) I can row it or pole it or use the miserly 15 hp. 4-stroke engine, or hook up my electric motor to a special bow-mounted, removable bracket. No poling platform, so I don't have the height advantage those offer, but the boat floats in 4 inches, and I prefer to wade anyway, so I like to get close, then get out. It's ultra-light, so it's not the boat you want to be in if the water's choppy, but then, neither is the \$50,000 skiff at the fly fishing outing. (My boat is based on river rowing skiff lines, with high freeboard, more seaworthy than most poling skiffs on the market.) I stand to fly cast and fish only close-in spots, usually within a couple of miles of the ramp, only on good weather days. I have all my gear in containers or bags, so I can take or leave different types of tackle in the garage, and if I'm on the road they go in the truck or motel at night. My live well is a laundry tub with a circulating pump I can leave home, which I usually do. (It works really well, BTW, for greenies or freshwater shiners.) So, I choose daily what I want to do, then load my stuff.

I paid around \$8,000 for the new rig -- boat, motor, trailer with a spare tire and an electric motor. It's the result of knowing what works for me. Next month is duck season, and I plan to pile it high with decoys and head to Lake Okeechobee where I'll wade with the gators. That'll work too! *DP*

Al Pitcher: Just Thinking



Mother's Day 1959

I recently drove by several lakes and ponds I had fished as a kid, and that got me thinking about a story of the "Schott's Pond." Fishing was not permitted in this pond, but word was that it held some monster largemouth bass.

Beginning in the summer of 1958, I passed that pond every day on my way to various jobs at the country club. The Schott's large home sat on a hill overlooking the pond and the entire front part of the property. From the moment I laid eyes on that pond, I began thinking and planning how to breach the exterior barriers, as well as the internal security, which I thought they surely must have. The front of the property had a large gate and a large stone wall, and the sides had a barbed wire fence discreetly hidden by bushes and shrubs.

Stories abounded about how many boys had fished the pond only to be caught and have bad things happen to them; whatever that meant. Those stories were sufficient to keep me from trying until the spring of 1959. Now I would like to tell you I used a fly rod, but alas I did not. This venture had to be a lightly packed, night stealth operation. What I needed was a short spinning rod and just a few of my favorite top water lures. And that is exactly what I took on the Saturday night before Mother's Day 1959!

When I arrived, the road was fairly clear of traffic; so, I quickly made my way through the bushes, over the barbed wire fence, into a hiding spot along the bank. On my second cast, to the edge of some cattails, I drew a vicious strike; a strike I promptly missed. The next cast to the same area brought another strike, and a successful hook up for what I knew was going to be my largest bass ever. Three or four cranks and the fish broke water, made a large splash, and threw the hook; damn! Right after that, I saw the headlights of a car up on the hill and the beam of a light scouring the pond. I froze! When the light went out, I made my escape having missed my big chance.

The next day, Mother's Day 1959, I couldn't get that fish off my mind. So, I became brazen or foolish; I am still not sure which. In the late afternoon, I made my way to the pond for daylight "incursion." Using the same tactic as the night before, I made my way onto the property and into the middle of a bush. With just my rod sticking out and a little room to cast, I made my attempt. Nothing! Just then, I was spotted and quickly caught by the sheriff and escorted home. As we approached our house, with me in the back seat of the sheriff's car, I then realized that I was going to find out what "bad things" happened to boys who got caught fishing Schott's Pond."

Fly Over

Bill AuCoin: Fly-Fishing Once Over Lightly

Rainbow trout are bad? Who knew? Yellowstone National Park have ordered fly fishers to keep only native cutthroat trout. Color me reluctant. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

Why we love redfish. Click on the link below to the website of our brothers and sisters in the Jacksonville's First Coast Fly Fishers and check out the October newsletter with inspiring pictures (and a poem!) about catching tailing reds in the spartina grass. One of the lucky fly casters is John Adams who is also a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers. There's that, and more. Check it out. ([First Coast Fly Fishers](#))

Redfish love manatees. Florida Fish and Wildlife has declared November as Manatee Awareness month and they'd like us to slow down and to post somebody at the front of the boat to look out for the sea cows because they are moving about and looking for out warmer water. (How would manatees ever survive without those CO2 producing power plants with warm-water discharge?) There's another excellent reason to be on the lookout for manatees. They attract redfish. Some time ago Capt. Rick Grasset told me he saw a slew of redfish and, I think, also, a cobia following a manatee crossing the flat. Those big flapping manatee tails stir up the grass and serve minnows and shrimp to the gamefish. It's a given. Fly fishers love manatees, too. ([The Outdoor Wire](#))



Sign this petition. The IGFA has an online petition ready for your signature urging the federal fisheries department to strengthen its proposed rule for reducing long-line bycatch of tuna, especially near bluefin tuna spawning areas. ([IGFA](#))

The gift that keeps on giving. Have you seen the TV ad for Symbicort showing the stream anglers with what looks like tarpon tackle? AAAARRRRGGGHHHH. I don't know what Symbicort is for (I'm too distracted by the fishing scene to listen to the words) but I'm pretty sure I would tell my doctor NOT to prescribe it for me. I might have a side effect – gagging. So I enjoy reading the gibes about it online. Someone brought up the subject again here. ([Speypages](#))



I'd pay extra for this. Cabela's has a sale on its acclaimed Guidware GXII shirt, \$25 instead of \$45, so I ordered one. I like it a lot. It's got bells and whistles everywhere and lots of pockets including zip-up pockets. But I just noticed something odd on the back of the shirt. Can you tell from the picture? You might have to enlarge it. Here's a link to Cabela's in case you'd like to own one of these limited edition fishing shirts, too. ([Cabela's](#))

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